

BOARDWATCH **MAGAZINE**

Guide to Electronic Bulletin Boards and The Internet

Virtual Vineyard

**18 Wineries On
The World Wide Web**

Southwest Airlines

**Fares and Schedules
on the Web**

O'Reilly's WebSite

Web Server For Windows NT

Church of Scientology

**sues a user, a BBS, and
an Internet Service Provider
All in a Day's Work**

Playboy and Penthouse Online



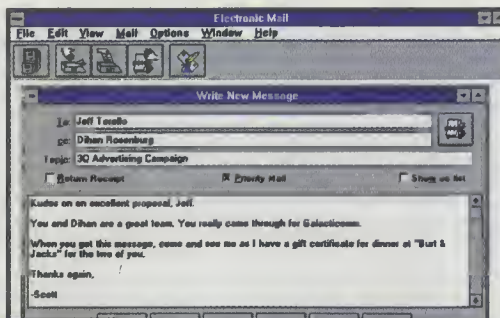
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Worldgroup Manager: Users access and navigate your system with Worldgroup Manager, a shareware, distributable Windows client. With the click of an icon, users are connected and logged in to your system.

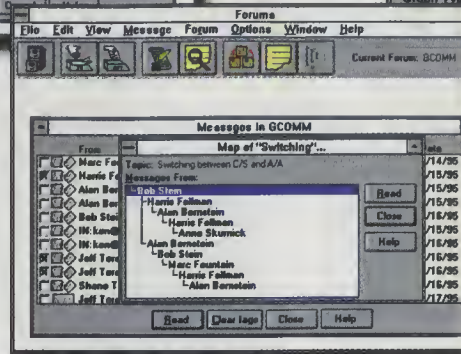


E-mail: Users can easily manage their mail with their own in box, out box, multi-folded filing cabinet, address book and more.

► *Main menu: Launch your own online service, right out of the box, with Worldgroup. Offer users e-mail, forums, multi-user teleconference, polls, files, Internet access and more.*



► *Forums: Create up to 10,000 group message areas or Internet newsgroups for users to exchange ideas on a variety of topics. A map even helps users track conversation threads visually.*



Open Your Windows to the

Worldgroup™. Bring the World a Click Away.

The newest, smartest generation of online software isn't coming from Microsoft. Or CompuServe. Or America Online. It's coming from you — and Galacticom, the creator of The Major BBS®.

It's called Worldgroup. And it's a client/server online software platform that brings the world to you.

Think of Worldgroup as the bridge that links the people and resources within your company to the world

beyond. With the click of an icon, you can network your entire business world — customers, stockholders, prospects, field staff, distributors, vendors, the press and more — together online!

Worldgroup. The World's Most Powerful Client/Server Online Platform.

By running your own online service, you have 100% control over the content, presentation and revenue of your system. And Worldgroup's client/server approach makes it easy for anyone to use.

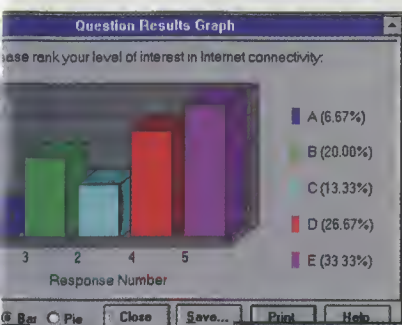
The shareware client runs under Windows on your users' machines. Its multi-threaded architecture lets them do all sorts of cool things simultaneously. Like download files in the background, while reading new mail. Or auto update

new versions of applications transparently. Local caching, "look ahead" and client-driven intelligence maximizes performance at 2,400 or 28,800 bps.

You can customize all the icons and menu pages out of the box. With Worldgroup's multimedia features, you can have a "splash" screen with a BMP image and a WAV or MIDI file, graphic menu backdrops, real-time video and more.

There's even a "launch" client/server utility that downloads and launches files for your users, such as Adobe Acrobat files, Word documents and PowerPoint presentations, in one easy step — while the user is online.

You can use Visual Basic and C to create your own custom client/server applications (we provide source code). Or, just plug and play dozens of add-on applications from our network of Independent Software Vendors.

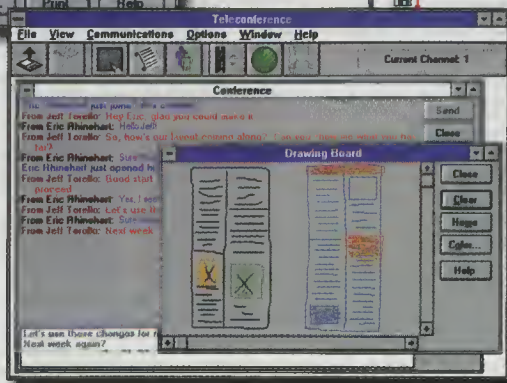


Polls and Questionnaires: Offer marketing surveys, suggestion boxes, applications forms and testing, to name a few. Results are immediately tallied and can be viewed as exportable bar graphs or pie charts.

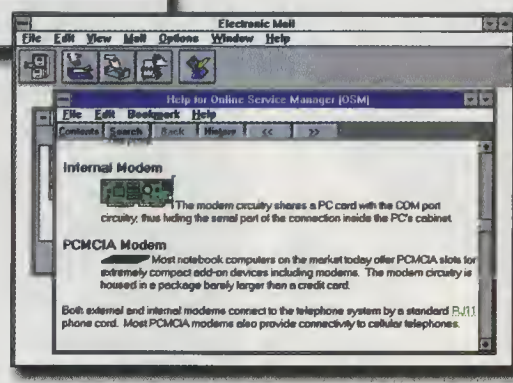
File Name	Add	Size	Description
ENTERT.PLS	1/24/95	3,823	Press release written about V&L
ENTERT.PLS	1/24/95	4,371	Press release about Entertainment Collection
EQUIP.TXT	1/24/95	4,136	Press release about Equinox Systems, Inc.
GAMECON.TXT	1/24/95	4,258	Press release about Game Connection
ICD.TXT	1/24/95	5,122	Press release about Internet Connectivity Option
ICOBETA.TXT	1/24/95	5,712	Press release about Internet Connectivity Option
RECORD.PLS	1/24/95	2,591	Press release: Galaticomm breaks world record
ROYER.TXT	1/24/95	5,085	Press release: Ken Royer to head new NSI division
SNR.DOC	1/24/95	3,960	Press release announcing Search and Retrieve

File Libraries: Users simply tag the files they're interested in and select the download icon. Files can be downloaded in the background while users enjoy your other services.

Teleconference: Users can simultaneously chat, whisper, sketch diagrams, transfer files and more with each other in real time.



Help: Users will quickly grasp the advantages of Worldgroup's friendly Windows interface, with hypertext online help at every window.



World of Online Computing

The server runs on a single 486 or Pentium DOS machine and can handle up to 256 users online at once. Locks and Keys™ security provides airtight access control.

Full system accounting and reporting is built in. And in addition to client/server users, you can still support ASCII/ANSI/RIP terminals.

Worldgroup. Beyond the World-Wide Web.

Worldgroup's client/server interface works just as well over the Internet as it does with dial-up modems. We're talking full-fledged interactive applications, not just documents. In addition, ftp server and basic WWW server capabilities are also supported.



Worldgroup provides a communication model that brings the inside world and the outside world together in a secure, productive environment.

But it doesn't stop there. You can make your service accessible via modem, serial ports, TCP/IP, Novell LAN, ISDN and X.25 networks such as CompuServe and SprintNet.

Worldgroup. The Best of Both Worlds.

Worldgroup gives you the best of workgroup software and commercial online services.

E-mail, group discussion areas, file libraries, teleconferencing, surveys and more are all built-in. You can gateway to existing message systems via MHS or UUCP. And that's just the beginning.

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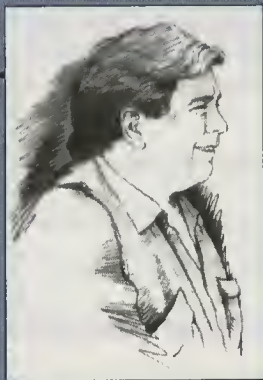
MAY 1995

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

Guide to Electronic Bulletin Boards and The Internet

ISSN: 1054-2760
Volume IX, Issue 5
MAY 1995

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Boardwatch Magazine (Issn:1054-2760) is published monthly at an annual subscription rate of \$36. (\$99 Overseas) by Boardwatch Magazine, 8500 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 210, Littleton, CO. 80123. Second Class postage paid at Littleton, CO and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: Boardwatch Magazine, 8500 West Bowles Ave. Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123 **Printed in USA.**

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Sysops who win know what it takes.

Eight of the top 15 winners in the Boardwatch 100 run TBBS.

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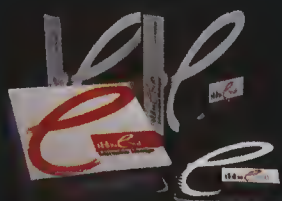
choice is easy - Winners run TBBS, and their callers love them for it. If winning is your goal, call (303) 699-6565 for more information and access to a demonstration system.

TBBS. The BBS people love to call.

IN ORDER OF NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND JUNE 30, 1994

TITLE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SOFTWARE	LINE
1. Software Creations	508-368-7139	The Primary Source for Entertainment Software	PCBoard	134
2. EXEC-PC	414-789-4360	Largest dial up BBS for shareware software	Custom	280
3. GLIB	703-578-4542	Gay & Lesbian Information, Internet email, live chat	TBBS	23
4. Monterey Gaming System	408-655-6555	Custom interactive gaming and multi-user conferences	Custom	32
5. Blue Ridge Express	804-790-1675	Custom interactive gaming and multi-user conferences	Custom	36
6. Deep Cove BBS	604-636-5885	Large files base with 3 Gigabytes and CD-ROMs	TBBS	33
7. AlphaOne Online	708-827-3619	News, publications, Internet email, shareware, games	TBBS	18
8. America's Suggestion Box	616-471-8625	Adults only, matchmaking, personals, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	74
9. Lifestyle Online	516-889-5390	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
10. Prodigy Genealogy	800-775-7714	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
11. Chrysalis	214-890-9295	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
12. Pleasure Dome BBS	804-490-5878	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
13. INDEX System, The	404-924-8472	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
14. Pennsylvania Online	717-657-8699	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
15. Springfield Public Access	413-536-4365	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
16. OS/2 Shareware	703-385-4325	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
17. DSC	215-443-7390	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
18. Wizard's Gate BBS	614-224-1635	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
19. Aquila BBS	708-820-8344	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
20. Nashville Exchange, The	615-383-0727	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
1. DeltaComm Online	919-481-9399	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
2. File Shop BBS, The	818-587-3311	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
3. Traders' Connection	218-381-3320	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
4. Son BBS	610-439-1509	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
5. InfoService	908-205-0189	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
6. The	703-749-2860	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18
7. on Systems	914-667-4088	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	18

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Soft

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EDITOR'S NOTES

DANCING WITH ELEPHANTS IN THE YEAR OF STUPID MONEY

The online community is growing up a bit as an industry. And the throes of adolescence in this case will be particularly gruesome to watch.

It wasn't so long ago that the PC industry itself went through such an evolution. I recall when PCs were widely viewed as toys, and the big question was "What are they good for?" and of course the corollary "What can it do that I can't do myself with a pencil?"

I'm not certain the question was ever answered definitively, but last year American industry spent over 50% of its capital budget on personal computers and related products. I'm not sure I quite comprehend what an enormous change this represents in a period of 15 years.

The PC communications segment has long represented the safe haven for the pioneers and innovators of the PC revolution that were shouldered aside by their more commercial counterparts. Hobbyists, home software developers, and tiny companies have lived there for many years - a kind of bubbling backwater no one quite knew what to do with. In recent years, it had become kind of huge in its own way, probably 25 million Americans playing at some level or another. But they were so thinly distributed that no one service amassed more than 2 million in any one place for even a moment - and hundreds of little software companies, bulletin boards, hardware vendors, etc. all taking a slice like thousands of ants slicing a pie to dust. This actually has a certain allure - a significant percentage of the 25 million consumers were actually, in ways small or tiny, also suppliers.

Despite regular expansion in the number of participants, this supersaturated solution simply didn't seem to ever flash over. The largest commercial

online services simply weren't very profitable, and one of the reasons bulletin boards thrived was that the "cottage industry" aspect of bulletin boards matched very well the distributed nature of this beast.

A couple of relatively simple things have served as the catalyst to "flash" this supersaturated solution, and I'm a little uncertain what it will look like after the conversion. First is a rather broad misunderstanding which, while completely inaccurate, winds up being true enough in the current Alice in Wonderland climate. Some long-time Internet proponents, in a kind of self-serving form of wishful thinking, calculated the number of people who could potentially use the Internet. By summing together all the callers to all the commercial services and Fidonet bulletin boards and anything else that could conceivably pass an e-mail message via the Internet, and including everyone who attended a university that had an Internet connection, everyone who worked for government or industry where Internet was in the building, they came up with a number on the order of 20 million Internet "users." It was innocent enough actually. Any of those people COULD in theory send an e-mail message that would transit the network.

But the wider press seized on this statistical speculation and translated it to 20 million people ON the Internet. What's the difference? Well it may be a bit pedantic, but probably important. All of these telnet and ftp and gopher and World Wide Web sites, and the hysteria to have one, was based on the concept that the ravening hoards could access them. They couldn't. That required Internet Protocol access, which virtually none of the hoard had.

But the belief system was in place. And individual site experience would tend to support it. We connected a horribly cobbled together pile of TCP/IP stack and hacked together stuff onto a SLIP connection to our BBS a couple of years ago. We didn't know if it would stay up for 15 minutes but we booted it up and went to the other room to get coffee. By

the time we returned with a cup, someone had telnetted into our BBS and was rooting around. No one could have possibly known we were up or even had a domain name connected to a live IP address. But here he was, rooting around. Our Web site takes 14,000 hits per day now. We're not sure why. We're not even sure how as it runs on the junk we found in the storage closet. We know if we could get a penny per hit we would do pretty well.

What happened? I think the entire world has grossly underestimated the impact of those trivial 12 cent per minute long-distance charges. The Internet is a form of long-distance bypass. Online services and bulletin boards were either expensive (i. e., \$8 per hour) via packet or REAL expensive via long-distance direct dial. Worse, they were unpredictably expensive. A certain amount of fear attaches to the unknown and possibly traumatic telephone bill.

The Internet allows people to communicate at the \$1 and \$2 per hour level, or better totally flat rate, across the country and around the globe. That sounds like a "contributing" factor to the net's growth. Actually, it might be huge. It allows all those "dispersed" people to land on the same site, anywhere, at any time - the first glimmer of concentration. And I think it explains the large traffic bottlenecks on the Internet. Someone does something, anything, significant or interesting. Word leaks out about it across the net. And within hours, you have to wait all afternoon to get a glimpse of the beauties on the Penthouse world wide web page. It's buried. There isn't enough hardware, bandwidth, or anything else to handle it. We saw it with a Pizza Hut Web site if you can believe it. We would have done a story on it if we could have ever got in.

In this scenario, a guy with an idea to sell bottled wine via a World Wide Web page really CAN attract a huge influx of people to his lone site - because it isn't restricted by local calling area. Finally it really IS a national community. So the fact that there are not 20

million REALLY, doesn't matter at all. The effect is the same. If five or six million people can actually access it and by virtue of the lack of meter are not dissuaded from doing so, it could look like 40 million to him.

And all this has drawn some significant attention. I was a bit bowled over by the concept of CompuServe spewing \$37 million cash and \$63 million in stock to buy Spry. I don't want to denigrate Spry or its notable accomplishments, but this makes no sense. AOL has bought Advanced Network and Services. But more notably, they also bought a tiny little company that had a Mosaic Browser product called Bookline. It was actually pretty good. It was released as shareware one day, and within the month, actually before going out of beta, it disappeared. AOL gobbled it up. It is resurfacing as their net interface. The large commercial services are terrified of Microsoft, and certain the Internet is going to end life as they know it.

It was early March when tiny VocalTec released a fascinating product titled Internet Phone. It is revolutionary - allowing voice over the Internet. But it's embryonic. Already another company has announced a full duplex competing product and I think this will evolve into not only a serviceable voice phone, but also a video phone with answering machines and all the things we were promised in telephones at the '64 World's Fair - all over the Internet over the next year or so. But by the END of March, both Motorola, a \$23 billion per year giant, and a significant chipset manufacturer had both inked deals with this tiny company. The product wasn't a month out.

Microsoft invested in a tiny modem manufacturer, Shiva Corporation, basically to obtain their Point to Point Protocol technology. Then they bought UUNET, a significant player in Internet Services, but entirely out of scale to Microsoft. Now TCI, the world's largest cable company, is squirting \$120 million dollars for 20% of a Microsoft Network online service that doesn't actually exist yet.

And we're seeing some of these companies going public. Netcom did a successful IPO in December, and they have grown from 11,000 to 100,000 subscribers in a year. Performance Systems International, another Internet Service Provider, sees the action and now THEY are floating a stock. Now we hear Mustang Software Inc., a BBS software vendor with just

under \$5 million in annual sales, is doing an Initial Public Offering. Even Netscape, which isn't actually a year old, is flirting with virtually everyone.

The scale of it is what is unnerving. For a TCI, or a Motorola, or a Microsoft, what looks like all the known money in the uncharted universe to a Shiva or a UUNET, much less a VocalTec or a Mustang, is so miniscule on the balance sheets of these giants that it gets lost in the rounding errors. On the chance that there MIGHT be some related and useful technology in the closet somewhere at one of these companies is almost sufficient cause to pour a few million or tens of millions of dollars on it. Kitchen table operations can hit the mother lode with a cute or innovative piece of software. Party.



Worse, or better, depending on your current position, just a handful of these \$100 million Spry deals, and every vulture capitalist on Christ's green earth will be rooting around trying to get a claw in the next "hit." Don't be misled by the concept of these people as "investors." These guys are compulsive gamblers and the word is about to get out that the "game is on" with anything that has the "I-word" in it.

The result, I must predict, is the year of stupid money. By late 1995, you will see every stupid idea on the planet quite adequately funded thank you. So get your bets down...it could actually become a feeding frenzy that will make what happened in biotech a few years ago look conservative and blue chip.

And I keep coming back to the national community - the reach of the Internet simply because there are no local calling zones. It drives me to wonder what American business and our economy would look like with the continent as a local calling area in our existing voice telephone system. How much does this subtle balkanization of our nation into free calling zones really effect businesses and consumers? We do know a bit about the impact of 800 numbers. But what if the national psyche itself was actually changed over to regard the continent as one large community, where anyone could call any business or individual anywhere with the same dispatch, convenience, and cost as any in the local community? In theory, any business has access to a 250 million body count market. But do they really?



Very soon, if not as you read this, the logjam preventing local telephone companies from being long-distance carriers, long-distance carriers from being local telephone companies, and cable companies from being both, is going to break up. Ameritech is about to swap it all out and become a long-distance carrier. Once they move, the scramble among the other regionals will be instantaneous.

And the technology is developing before our eyes to cause a significant "leak" in voice traffic to the Internet - along with video as a bonus. It shouldn't be 18 months until one of the long-distance companies, which will then include the local telcos and cables, will announce a "flat rate" program - a few hundred a month for unlimited long-distance service. If the local access charges were gone, it probably would have already happened.

And once that goes down, it goes down hard. I would guess ultimately \$50-\$75 per month for a fiber telephone with virtually unlimited bandwidth, and you call who you like when you like. The pace of change does not appear to slacken before us...

Jack Rickard



Letters to the Editor

Boardwatch Magazine
8500 W Bowles Ave Suite 210
Littleton Co 80123

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS

Hi Jake:

It was thrilling to see you and your fine publication mentioned by Biff Monochrome in PC Magazine. And to think that for all these years, I've only associated the name of Mr. Richter with earthquake measurements!

Sincerely,

Mark Hinsch
San Diego, CA
Avidreader@aol.com

♦♦♦

NEW NAME

Hey Jack, congratulations on your new name! Why didn't you tell anyone except Bill Machrone ("Where Everybody Knows Your Name," pg. 83, PC Magazine, 28 March) that you had changed your name to "Jake Richter"? Apparently, Bill "doesn't know Jack!" :-)

Faust@access.digex.net

♦♦♦

PC MAGAZINE

I see Boardwatch Magazine got a mention in Bill Machrone's article "Where Everyone Knows Your Name," March 28, 1995. It's always nice to see one of my favorite magazines get a mention. Question is, who is Jake Richter? I thought you ran the show. <grin> It would be nice if Bill Machrone knew YOUR name. In any case he got the web address right. Have a good day.

From:
Suzi.Hamilton@fjob.mail.opm.gov

♦♦♦

Suzi/Mark/Faust:

I rarely get letters about mistakes in OTHER magazines, we have enough of our own frankly. But I did catch the article, and it was actually a pretty good take on the BBS/Internet question. After you've webbed yourself silly looking at all this info files, where are you? No place. And quite alone.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, Boardwatch Magazine, 8500 West Bowles Ave., Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123; by fax to (303)973-3731 or by e-mail to letters@boardwatch.com.

Machrone's analogy of a BBS as a bar after the fashion of "Cheers" is actually quite good. I looked a bit at the title "Where Everybody Knows Your Name" and the demonstrated accuracy regarding our telephone number and web site address, and have to assume it's an inside joke. Probably a deserved one frankly. I've misspelled almost everyone's name in the industry in the pages of Boardwatch at one time or another, most recently Rick Hem[m]ings and Bob Metcalf[e]'s rather blatantly. What goes around comes around.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

THE "WHERE IS AOL" RESPONSE

Dear Jack,

America Online has now about a thousand people working for it. Out of a group that big I wouldn't expect you to like them all ... Only some of us think we ARE the information highway <g> ...

Rick Phillips
Sysop, AOL Technical Support BBS
Rfphillips@aol.com

♦♦♦

Rick:

AOL does not have a thousand people working for it. It's a publicly traded corporation and this information is widely available - even an employee would have access to this.

Your fearless leader was the specific referenced. I understand that there may be MANY good people working for the company.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

AOL

Dear Mr Rickard,

I read your reply to John Delaney about Aol with interest. I was surprised at your vitriole towards Aol. Especially ironic when your lead article in March Boardwatch mentions Aol specifically as a comparison. This would indicate that your personal feelings aside the magazine sees Aol as the first model to compare to. I would hope that

in the future you would be able to separate your personal views from a general discussion of what is going on in internets.

I am sure these strong feelings are valuable to the quality of the magazine. However I can not believe that you can not find someone in the two million subscribers to Aol who meets your stringent requirements, can write well and not be a personal affront to you.

Thank you for Boardwatch I enjoy reading it every month.

Bruce Bragdon
TTHDR@aol.com

♦♦♦

Bruce:

Actually, our lead story did not mention AOL as a comparison in general. It was about a BBS product you can run on a PC that sports an interface that looks very much like AOL. I absolutely don't see AOL as the "first model to compare to" even in an interface specific sense. But the Galacticom Interface in WorldGroup does resemble AOL more than anything else.

It would be unlikely I could separate my personal views from a general discussion of what is going on in the "internets" [sic]. Boardwatch has for over eight years BEEN my personal view of what is going on online.

♦♦♦

Dear Jack,

Firstly, I would like to compliment Boardwatch on the excellent coverage it gives to various proponents of our favorite subject — BBS's and National Services.

However Sir, I must take up arms with regard to your recent letter to John Delaney of Alton, IL., with reference to AOL. (America On-Line). Perhaps it's time Sir, to find someone that writes in a style and manner that you would accept.

I am in the information business Sir, - I am a Librarian for a busy public library, located here on Long Island, NY. As a librarian, I don't have time to try and sift through a lot of mindless prattle that I found on a cou-

ple of other national services (one starts with the letter P !). I can do keyword string searches on AOL, and find the information instantaneously.

I would also like to point out one interesting sidebar. There are people on AOL that wish to help and assist other people without any remuneration on their part. They are NOT part of AOL staff, but there to assist.. One such person is CathPriest - Father Roy.

Father Roy had been on AOL since September of 1994, and saw that there was a need out there in Cyberspace to answer people's questions on faith, while also being there for a person in need of pastoral assistance. He receives quite a large amount of e-mail, and the room has grown in size over the ensuing months. There are other priests on-line that enter the room and assist, as well as taking up some of Father Roy's over-burdened mailbox!!!

Please don't fluff off the wonderful service that AOL does provide for the people.

Sincerely,
Joan Oliva Welch
From: Joan@savvy.com

Joan:

Any online service (even NVN, ask me sometime what the hell THAT is) has its detractors and proponents. If you have found good value online, take it where you find it. I don't like AOL. I don't like the people who run AOL. And it probably doesn't matter. They've rounded up a good number of people who believe they are getting good value for their money. Well and good enough. I'm not one of them.

Jack Rickard

GUI'S AND THE HANDICAPPED

Hopefully a short note on the March "People Online" section. The trend towards GUI's seemingly is irresistible (Jim Thompson's article in the same issue is a good example). Yet the tools to allow everyone to take advantage of a GUI interface, especially the mobility impaired or blind, are poor or really lacking.

If you are blind or can't maneuver a mouse you can forget AOL or Prodigy, and an increasing number of BBS's. This is sad, as Phyllis pointed out nicely in her article the benefits of being a participating member of the online community.

I find myself in a quandry. I can understand the business forces that are driving towards GUI interfaces but I feel bad for those who "see" places like AOL that they can't participate in; or who see places where they could participate swing over

into the GUI world, leaving them offline. The old is giving way to the new, but the new is at a higher technology level and may leave many people behind. I kinda wish that the AOLs and Prodigy's of the world would either put the means in place in their software to let people who can't use a GUI still participate, or maybe even get together to help develop the technology needed to allow the blind and handicapped to use GUIs.

I don't know what the answer to the problem is, but it seems a shame that the technology that is turning the online world on fire is potentially going to cut off a large number of people who, quite honestly, would probably be good customers of the services.

Thanks to Phyllis for telling the story that she told and to you Jack for a magazine that covers this amazing area.

Regards

John
jmcging@access.digex.net

John:

I understand the problem, but I think you pointed to the solution in the first paragraph. There was a time when handicapped and visually impaired individuals were unable to use personal computers at all. Tools were developed to allow them to read the screen etc. and I personally found these text to speech products near miraculous. At this point, PCs are a very capable enabling technology.

These tools do have serious problems with GUI interfaces. But graphic interfaces, as you point out, generally make use of the computer easier for the vast majority of us. And it is markedly the direction software development has taken.

I tend to look for technical solutions to technical problems - perhaps a failing. But it would seem a pregnant opportunity for someone to develop the tools necessary to again bridge the gap between the needs of handicapped individuals and the current state of the art in computer interfaces. At this point the old excuse that there is insufficient market among the small numbers of handicapped individuals is probably not even true. A few companies have done very well and nearly own the market for their respective solutions - to some good effect.

We'll print your letter in the hopes it starts the wheels turning in some bright young mind capable of a solution.

Jack Rickard

Hi Jack,

This is my first time writing to you. I really enjoy your publication. I just started navigating the Net about a week ago.

My question/comments are in regards to BBSes that allow TelNet in. In the back of your magazine, I noticed the BBS Ads and a few claim No Fee but yet when I Telnet to them, its actually isn't the case. I get a limited free demo access and then I am obligated to subscribe. Its no big deal, but it kinda reminds me of some sort of 'false advertising.' An example is World Data Network. **Telnet: wdn.com** It says in the ad: No Fee, and free access. Now, what exactly does that mean? Free to TelNet to? Or Free to use the BBS?

Anyways, I was just wondering since I am new to the Net and would like to find some sites worth going to. Please don't misunderstand this letter, I don't have anything against Subscription BBSes, but they should let the readers know in your publication. A lot of the other BBSes advertised do this, its just a few that don't.

Thanks for your time.
barry@spectra.net

P.S. You might want to add Spectra.Net to the InterNet SLIPP/PPP Host List.

Spectra.Net
139 Grand Avenue
Johnson City, NY 13790
Voice: (607)798-7300
Fax: (607)798-7771
Email: Info@spectra.net
\$39.95 setup fee includes GUI Software
\$19.95/mo. for Ultima Connection
PPP/SLIP Account 20 hrs/\$1/hr. after
\$19.95 setup fee for shell account.
\$12.95/mo. for World Class Connection 20
hrs/\$.65 an hr. after that.

Barry:

At this point, I would say most bulletin boards have some level of subscription fee support or other fee structure. Generally, almost all allow you some "free" access to look the service over and get a feel for whether you would be at home there or not. The mix of what is free and what you must pay for is a genuine quandary for online service operators across the online landscape - from very small bulletin boards to the largest services. It is the subject of constant experimentation. Those services that can divine what mixture hits the best chord with callers will prosper. Those who don't, will not. Sounds like you found a couple of losers. The good news is that they can learn the hard lessons and change it completely in an hour or less. Vote with your dollars, and I think we'll see a free and unfettered market work best.

We did publish a list of telnettable bulletin boards in our April 1995 issue, and you can obtain it from the Dragon's Keep BBS, completely free and at no charge, by telnetting dkeep.com

Thanks for the info on Spectra Net. We'll add it.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

THE PROJECT

A note or two to Doug Shaker regarding his "project". First, he's a brave fella for allowing us to watch his trials and tribulations in print. I know that I'm glad that a few of my own "startup experiences" will die with me!

Hate DOS? Bastard child of CPM? But of course. I think most of us know the scam that brought us the original MS-DOS. However, those that fall in love with alternative operating systems should consider the realities of the job at hand. I'd be the first to agree that DOS is pretty pathetic for a great many applications, but here Doug is hammering the poor thing in one of the few situations where it can be exactly what the doctor ordered - a low profile from a resource requirements standpoint. No tool is right for every job, and *that* is the reality.

Give me the latest release of OS/2 if the job at hand *needs* an Intel based multi-purpose, multi-tasking operating system. On the other hand, if I'm using a machine solely for the purpose of running a BBS, what I need is an operating system that as much as possible just stays the #*&\$\$ out of the way of my software, introducing the smallest interface layer between that software and the hardware that actually does the work.

I love OS/2. I hate Windows (pick an edition — with my luck at locked up applications, CTRL-ALT-DEL seems to be the MicroSoft default mode for program termination). I could live without UNIX (and use it just about daily). Any of these for a BBS? Why on earth add the additional interface layer(s) of an operating system that by necessity virtualizes every blessed piece of hardware in the system to avoid all of the applications crashing into one another? Because it's easier to write the code when someone else has already done half your work, I suspect. For a BBS, such an OS is constantly stealing away precious CPU cycles that could be put to far better use serving the callers' needs. Any operating system does this to a greater or lesser extent, DOS less than most others that can be run on an Intel machine. Few, however, are talented (or demented) enough to write requisite code from scratch.

Doug wants something that will run on that bright, shiny new Pentium he bought him-

self. With an operating system that induces mucho overhead into the equation before he even fires up the BBS application, he may well need it.

Multi-tasking operating systems are, by nature, less efficient than a BBS package written to accomplish the same purpose. Today's multi-tasking operating systems' taskers and resource managers and etc. must be written for "general purpose" use as opposed to multi-line BBS software that can be written to "multi-task" in a *very application specific* way and wring the absolute maximum out of the available hardware as a result.

I'm also a bit concerned over the issue of IP connectivity as offered in some of the packages he has researched. Best check to see what sort of throughput is really likely with each, most especially the low cost "software-only" solutions of the two finalists that remained at the end of his culling process. They sound great on paper, but I suspect a chat with those who have actually installed them is in order.

In most situations, give me DOS, the minimalist solution, and give me decent DOS based multi-line BBS software that will run a whole PILE of lines at >90% 28.8K throughput on one cheap motherboard and a pittance of memory.

Give it to Doug, too, because when he finds out what those IP connections he neglected to add to his "Baby Godzilla" project costs are going to run him, he'll likely be scrambling for more cost effective solutions! Eight lines of inbound Telnet bandwidth are going to require a whole lot more than a SLIP (modem based) connection; quite possibly more than the ISDN connection (even if bridged to a 128K configuration — fractional T1 territory) if he's going to move much data over them and keep his users happy at the same time. Here's hoping he lives next door to the POP for his Internet host. This leased line stuff gets ugly expensive in a hurry!

However it comes out, I do wish him luck, and look forward to reading the updates as the project progresses. It's bound to prove educational. Will be particularly interested in his experiences with the TSX operating system. It's an odd duck with some real promise, although perhaps even more promise for other applications.

Chris Anderson
chris.anderson@dinosaur.com

♦♦♦

Chris:

Always good to hear from you. Dinosaur appeared in the first issue of Boardwatch in March, 1987 as I recall.

Doug Shaker's column has been very well received, and I think the magic has been as you stated it, he's let us look over his shoul-

der while making the mistakes and fumbles we all go through. His column this month on connecting his TSX-BBS system to The Little Garden for Internet is precious.

I agree that when the only tool you have is a hammer, all the problems begin to look a lot like nails. But I would love a new multi-tasking operating system that worked well, and I'm currently a little excited about the future potential of Windows NT and it's offspring, Windows95. So we don't share the same view of Microsoft's wares.

TSX is from out of nowhere, and I agree it IS terribly interesting. It is a multi-tasker and shows great potential for Internet connectivity. The gentleman that wrote it actually taught the assembly language course where Phil Becker got his first taste of programming. As I recall, you run Phil's TBBS software. It's a fascinating industry.

But the wider point you make is even more interesting. A view of any BBS software shows third-party programs, newsgroups dedicated to use and operation techniques, and to some degree, a BBS software program begins to look and act like it's own operating system. More efficient programs allowing the use of hundreds of lines from a single PC gain that efficiency by focusing on more controlled systems that are dedicated to communications. Those that handle lines less efficiently, tend to be more open and it is easier to tack on external programs and do other things beyond the design of the BBS software. You rather pick your poison. We're regularly called on to recommend a BBS software rather out of our hat and I generally demure. It depends a lot on what you want to do, how you want to do it, and what level of expertise you can bring to bear on operating it. Those are huge variables, and a quick answer is usually the wrong one. I could probably sell a lot of magazines with the trick chart, but I think it would be misleading.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

Jack,

I just picked up your March issue and saw the letter about Vmodem. I liked your little bio of Ray Gwinn, but I think you largely missed the point of Vmodem. Vmodem is a variation on telnet that includes file transfer. It also lets you use any terminal program to telnet to any BBS that supports telnet logons and use your terminal program the same way you do a normal dial-up connection. The significance of this is that you can call any BBS in the world (that is set up for telnet) for the price of a local call. No more long distance charges, expensive 800 services or packet-switched networks. BBSs can change in character from being local resources to being national and international in scope and much more highly specialized. BBSs may even become more popular than the web because they are

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inherently more interactive and versatile with doors, chat, live interaction with the sysop etc. A lot of OS/2 BBSs have started offering telnet access. In fact a list of such BBSs might be a good list for your magazine.

Another topic I would like to see discussed in your magazine is how a BBS can set up telnet access. I think Vmodem makes access to the BBS painless and I know 24Hr/7day SLIP accounts in my area are only \$50/Mo., but it is the local telco charges that scare the pants off me.

Anyway I love your magazine. The first issue I picked up I was blown away by your lucid writing and always meant to send you a letter expressing my appreciation. I'm glad I finally have. Sorry to hear about your bad experience with Warp. I think you'd like it if you ever get it working.

Regards

John
Jcounts@omni.voicenet.com
The Fellowship BBS (610) 647-6398

♦♦♦

John:

I don't think I missed the significance of vmodem, but thought it worth mentioning that this was NOT the authors first venture into software of value to the communications world.

Right now the solutions to connecting a BBS to the Internet are extremely varied depending on the type of BBS you operate, and in many cases very much under construction. We'll try to follow it as it develops.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

Dear Jack:

Would you please cut back on the profane language in the magazine? It gives it a very bad reputation. In the December 1994 issue on the bottom of page 41, you describe the Usenet News Reader as "s*it-hot". You don't even hear that word on television because it's forbidden. I do agree that Netscape is the best Web browsing program, but it calling it "red hot" is just as good.

Very truly yours,
hdfv50e@prodigy.com

♦♦♦

hdfv50e:

Well I thought it WAS shit-hot and this ISN'T television. But if I had known that an asterisk in place of the "h" would have made life better for you, we probably could have found one laying around here somewhere. I'll try to watch it in the future.

Jack Rickard

INEXPENSIVE WEB SERVERS

Hi Jack

I love your magazine. I am new to the internet and have only read a couple of issues and find you magazine to be very interesting and informative.

I have a question. In the last issue of Boardwatch you mention that a person can put up a modest web server for about \$500.00. I need to know how. Can you point me in the right direction? Do I just call the phone company and order a phone line? How do I get an internet address? What kind of software do I use?

Any help or information you can pass along would be greatly appreciated.

Jack L Warfield
dcvh58a@prodigy.com

♦♦♦

Jack:

It's a developing field, and one we are watching pretty intensely. I don't know that the objective of \$500 is really realistic as a total budget. We were alluding to the actual PC and software that acted as the server - not necessarily the Internet connection.

That said, it probably can be done. THE WELL, for one example and not the only one, is setting up a service where users can host a home page on their service for as little as \$50 per month. They provide the host computer, the Internet connection, etc. You just provide the HTML documents. This type of "service bureau" arrangement is undoubtedly the least expensive way to sport a World Wide Web page.

Traditionally, independent World Wide Web sites have been run on a UNIX system. SunOS has been popular although we see stuff set up on BSDI and Linux quite often.

Our interest is in running World Wide Web sites on more familiar stock. Our web page of the moment runs on a 386-20MHz that lies on its side with no case on it. It runs Windows 3.1, Trumpet winsock, and a program Gary wrote to be a web server. But there are a number of totally free web server software programs out there for Windows. The box is connected to our office LAN by ethernet, and that LAN is connected to the Internet by a 56 kbps link until this past month when we finally got a 1.544 Mbps T1 line in to replace it.

The reason we think this is interesting is that it is a familiar and popular operating system, it runs on inexpensive PC hardware, and we see a LOT of development going on in this area. Actually, to handle the multiple session activity necessary, we think the Windows NT platform is a lot better than Windows 3.1, and last issue we did talk about the EMWACS Web Server for Windows NT. This issue, we also talk about

a \$499 entry from O'Reilly titled WebSite that is due for release this month and works on the Windows NT platform. There are at least two other major vendors working on similar programs.

The things we're looking for at this point go beyond squirting HTML files in the direction of anyone that connects. My hot buttons:

1. Image maps. The ability to present a single graphic image that is linked to several different documents or sites. With this capability, the caller can click on an area of a single image, and make a connection to a document or site.

2. CGI Scripts. On UNIX web servers, the software contains a link to external programs called Common Gateway Interface or CGI scripts. This is simply an application program interface allowing you to add on programs to extend the function of the server. Typically, the application program will receive data from the server, perform some operation on it such as a database search, and return with an HTML page containing the results which the server sends to the other end.

On Windows-based servers, how would this work? The EMWACS does support CGI scripts written in C. The O'Reilly WebSite product leans more toward Visual Basic. Either way, you have to have a means to add links to other programs. Web site software doesn't do much. If you want to tie your whizbang database of every diner in Arizona to your website, you have to have a link. A solid and flexible CGI port is a necessity.

3. Forms. Web Surfers should be able to fill out a form online and have the information go somewhere useful, and be processed by some useful program. This is related to CGI but not necessarily. HTML has a kind of built in forms language.

4. Access Control. Bulletin boards control access to the system and to various features of the system via a USERLOG database containing a list of user names and their passwords. Typically, you can "flag" any particular user for access to any particular function on the service with almost endless combinations. Web sites don't actually have this feature, you're not precisely logged on to anything, and controlling access is a bit of a problem. If you have information or other elements you wish to reserve to paying subscribers, it's a little difficult. We count this as one of those fifteen minute problems. It's probably solved by the time you read this. How it is solved and what you have to do to administer it could be very interesting.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

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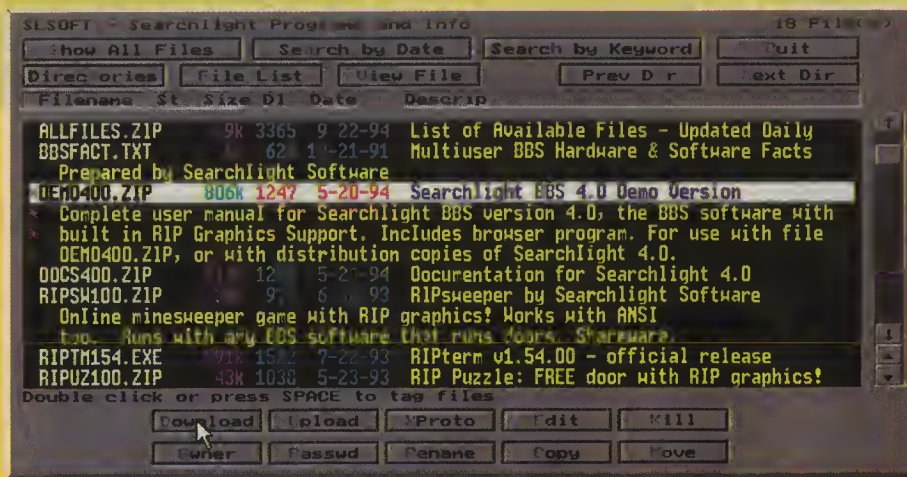
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Excalibur is the bulletin board system taking the world by storm. It was the first system of its kind to run entirely under Windows™ and continues to set the standard of measure. Because Excalibur is built around an accelerated bi-directional protocol, users can upload and download files, chat with other users, and compose messages ... *all at the same time!* Utilizing our proprietary graphical interface, users are able to design their own menus and screens incorporating object oriented graphics, bitmapped graphics, and TrueType fonts. This means no two Excalibur based systems are the same! Advanced error correction and data compression offer reliability and

convenience to all users, even those without error-correcting modems. As for expandability, Excalibur offers true Plug'N Play abilities. Imagine doors that are both hassle free and easy to use. By using Excalibur's *Application Programming Interface (API)*, third party developers have created everything from Internet gateways and databases to shopping malls and interactive games. The possibilities are endless. Modem into Excalibur HQ/USA at **918.496.8113** or call 800.EXCAL.BBS (800.392.2522). In Canada, modem into Excalibur HQ/Canada at 905.508.8872. Find out what users worldwide are heralding as "*the next generation in BBS software*".



Searchlight BBS...



Our RIP file manager lets you scroll anywhere in a directory...you can tag items and run commands by clicking with the mouse

When the first Bulletin Board Systems went online in 1978, graphical user interfaces didn't exist. Callers had to stare at text menus and memorize commands; there was no alternative.

Today, everyone prefers the dazzling screens that Windows and OS/2 provide...but most BBS programs still display the same drab, confusing text menus that the first programs did.

The information superhighway is full of exciting stops; no one has to call your BBS anymore. If they see cryptic text menus, they won't call back. You have to give callers the dazzling graphics and intuitive menus they prefer. That's why you need *Searchlight 4.0*.

RIP: We Show—Not Tell

The Remote Imaging Protocol by TeleGrafix gives callers the graphics and mouse support they expect; that's why callers prefer RIP. That's why BBS developers are scrambling to add RIP—and telling everyone that their RIP is "as good as Searchlight."

Well, talk is cheap—and seeing is believing. It's easy to see who the leader in RIP support is...look at our competition and keep asking: "*Where's the RIP?*"

Other companies love to tell you how good their RIP support is. But they hate to show it to you in their ads, brochures and test drives. They won't show you their RIP support because they know they can't match ours. Because nobody can.

"Searchlight is doing a marvelous job incorporating RIP into their BBS"

Boardwatch Magazine
July, 1994

The working scroll bars in *Searchlight 4.0* let you scroll through a message, file or directory list with your mouse. You can select messages, tag files, set options and run commands just by clicking with the mouse.

Searchlight 4.0 creates RIP menus on the fly, so you can build custom menus in seconds. And *Searchlight 4.0* is the only BBS program that displays RIP locally—so you see the same screens your callers do.

We do RIP better than anyone because we've been doing it longer than everyone. *Searchlight 3.0* was the world's first RIP-compatible BBS. *Searchlight 3.5* was the first BBS that generated RIP graphics—the first to offer scroll bars, pick lists and "on the fly" menus.

Searchlight 4.0 is the *only* BBS that displays local RIP. It's the *only* way to give callers a true GUI with no proprietary terminal.

And 90 days after TeleGrafix releases the RIP 2.0 protocol, we'll introduce *Searchlight 4.5*—the first BBS program that supports it.



Our direct video support lets you run any text-based DOS program as a door

you won't believe your GUIs!

Improvise Without Scripts

If you want custom menus, some companies make you buy their script language and write routines in it. That's not customizing—it's programming.

We think our engineers—not our sysops—should write the code. Our menu editor lets you put any command (we have over 100) on any menu. You can nest menus 40 levels deep and add doors to any menu—even build executable menus that run lists of commands.

Then use our RIP styles editor to add buttons and wallpaper—we'll generate your menus on the fly. Or use your favorite RIP painting program to draw RIP screens...and let us put your menus on it.

If you want a custom BBS, we help you build it quickly and easily. When you buy *Searchlight 4.0*, you can leave the compiling to us.

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Some major BBS programs can't drop to DOS at all. Others force you to install a shell utility.

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**PC Magazine
June 14, 1994**

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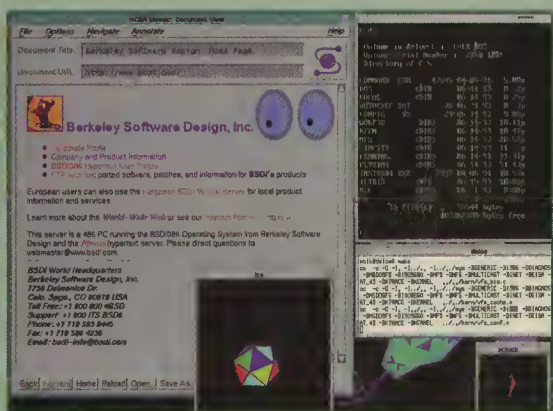
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BSDI Internet Server

Built for the Highway



INFOWORLD Internet Server Product Comparison

"BSDI Internet Server was the clear winner—easiest to setup and administer... [and] is extremely affordable. BSDI's support people were patient with our calls and offered extra tips for system performance."

INFOWORLD 1/30/95

The INFOWORLD Score

BBN Internet Server (BSDI Internet Server plus hardware)	7.6
BSDI Internet Server	7.0
Sun Netra Internet Server	6.3
SlackWare Professional	5.9
SCO Global Access	3.5

Internet ready. Finally there's server software built to connect with the Internet. The BSDI Internet Server integrates our complete 32-bit BSD/OS operating system and its bullet-proof TCP/IP with PPP and SLIP, global E-mail, FTP, Gopher, Archie, Netnews, World Wide Web, Netscape Navigator, and more. All you need is a 386, 486 or Pentium PC, and you're ready to deliver full-featured Internet gateway services.

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DARKSTAR - NOT SO BRIGHT

Gentlemen,

I felt compelled to write after seeing a full page ad in your magazine for Darkstar 1.02a. Perhaps you and your readers should know that there is no publicly available Darkstar 1.02a. You can only get a "demo" for your long distance call. This has been the case since late 1994 when it missed it's much publicized Christmas Eve debut. There is no new publicly announced release date and the software doesn't even appear to be in beta testing anywhere. The BBS you call to download the demo isn't running it and seems to have moved to another state recently. This seems highly irregular and your readers should be forewarned before wasting their money pursuing this product. The ad says "Nothing else even comes CLOSE". Well, apparently it doesn't either.

Sincerely,
Tom Morrow
Tom_morrow@tpsbbbs.win.net

♦♦♦

Tom:

And we want what we want when we want it - right? I'm with you buddy. These software developers should work longer nights and more of them. We need stuff...now.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

INTERNET

Jack:

As a recent subscriber to Boardwatch, allow me to first complement you and your staff for an excellent publication. This question may have been asked by one of your readers in the past, but it may be worth repeating. What exactly is needed in terms of hardware and software to set up a BBS to provide full Internet access to subscribers. I am the systems administrator of a private school district that plans to start a BBS to offer Internet access (Mosaic, gopher, ftp, e-mail, etc) to the various schools in our area. We have tried commercial providers like AOL but the costs per number of hours of use becomes prohibitive. We also would like to provide a means for exchanging information among teachers and administrators which is not readily available to students and the general public. From reading Boardwatch, I understand some of the particulars, but would appreciate some direction (as I am sure others would!). Thanks in advance.

Ron Maniglia
Maniglia@11nj.ppp1.gov
A body at rest remains at rest.

♦♦♦

Ron:

It's a big question and one that we'll try to do more justice to in future issues. The reason it's hard is that there are a lot of components, and they change depending on your BBS software of choice. Let's go over a few of the basics:

1. Internet Connection. You need a link to the Internet. This usually involves a telephone line to a service provider, and access and support from the service provider. We've used all of the following:

DIALUP SLIP - 28.8 kbps. This uses an ordinary 28.8 kbps modem to dial over standard telephone lines to a service provider. Our service provider is Netcom and I think we pay \$160 per month for the service. Additionally, since this is a standing link, it requires a dedicated telephone line for the link. I think we pay about \$30 per month for the telephone line. Netcom is a local call for us in the Denver area, so there are no connection charges.

56 KBPS LEASED LINE. This gets a little trickier. It is probably slightly faster on graphics files and so forth because it is twice the speed. But it offers no compression, whereas the 28.8 kbps link does. We can actually get better throughput on the 28.8 kbps link on some text data. But the 56 kbps seems a little more solid. You need a port from a service provider, which can run from \$150 per month up to about \$500 depending on where you are. You ALSO need the leased line from the local telephone company - which is very variable depending on how far you are from the Internet Service Provider. I think we pay Rocky Mountain Internet about \$500 per month for this service, and that includes some \$270 per month they forward to the telephone company for the leased line. Be sure you get straight whether the leased line to their POP is included or separate in their price.

If you have to go to the telephone company to get one, you want to specify that it is an FCC 73 leased line carrying data that will originate or be sent out of state. This cuts the cost of the leased line to about half what it costs to link two offices in the same area. Because the Internet links to areas all over the world, you get the FCC regulated tariff and it is much cheaper.

The 56 kbps leased line also requires a different type of modem termed a CSU/DSU. A 56 kbps CSU/DSU seems to be running in the \$200-\$300 range. We use a Cray.

We also use a ROUTER on the 56 kbps line. The one currently in service is a NAT 240B and they run about \$1800.

T1 LEASED LINE. This provides a much better link, at a much higher price. The bandwidth is 1.544 Mbps or about 30 times more than the 56 kbps line. Our leased line to the service provider is about \$730 month-

ly and we get the T1 service for \$500 per month. The CSU/DSU for T1 lines runs about \$1200. We could have used the same NAT router, but opted instead for a CISCO 2500, which coincidentally runs about \$2500.

To further cloud the matter, there is the matter of frame relay. Frame Relay is a kind of local packet cloud using the evolutionary successor to X.25. It can potentially affect your plans in two ways. First, it can dramatically decrease your local loop charges. A frame relay connection for our 56 kbps link would drop the local telco charges from \$270 per month down to about \$87. And the ISPs like it because they can connect a single T1 to the cloud and handle a number of accounts with it on their end. They'll often discount their service charge if you use frame relay. The second aspect of frame relay is that it requires a bit different hardware to connect to the cloud.

Once this is done, you have Internet in the room with you. Typically you connect it to a machine on your local area network. From their, getting it to your BBS can be another adventure. A Wildcat/PCBoard type system is very friendly with Novell. A company titled MurkWorks offers some software to handle the telnet/ftp functions to link the BBS to the TCP/IP on the network. Another option is to connect a terminal server to your LAN. A terminal server has an ethernet link to the LAN, and then a series of serial ports that you connect to your BBS machine via null modem serial cables, much as you would connect modems to the BBS.

What we actually use is a beta version of eSoft's Internet Protocol Adapter. This device cost us right at \$5600 and it does some very interesting things. First, it allows us to do away with the router completely if we wanted to. That's \$2500 worth of CISCO that would go away instantly. We kept the CISCO for general test reasons that have nothing to do with connecting the BBS. The IPAD contains a V.35 Niwot card that connects directly to the T1 CSU/DSU via a V.35 cable.

The IPAD acts as a terminal server. We connect serial cables from the BBS machine to the IPAD and we can both have telnet IN to the BBS and allow the BBS callers to telnet and ftp OUT to the Internet. Further, the IPAD supports other oddities such as finger, whois, traceroute, and so forth and all our callers can perform these functions as well.

The IPAD also contains an SMTP mail hub. It allows us to receive Simple Mail Transport Protocol e-mail directly, and convert it to UUCP files our BBS can handle as e-mail. It also takes the e-mail output of the BBS and sends them via SMTP to destinations on the Internet. It can ALSO act as a Post Office Protocol (POP) mail server. This becomes important because we can link up some modems, and in one case an ISDN

adapter, and offer SLIP/PPP links. In this way, we can provide SLIP/PPP to ourselves at our homes our remote sites. One of them actually allows 115 kbps SLIP links using ISDN service.

The IPAD also provides domain name service. In this way, we can register a single domain with the InterNIC as boardwatch.com, and have control over any machines within our domain to make them www.boardwatch.com for example.

Rather than use an IPAD as we've done, a number of BBS operators have setup UNIX boxes using BSDI or Linux, and linked the UNIX box to the BBS.

This is a rather confusing travelogue of different strategies you can use, along with an equally confusing travelogue of what we've done. It is my intention to expand on these explanations a bit as the technology matures, products move out of beta test and into a shipping status, and so forth over the coming months. Additionally, I would say nearly half the sessions scheduled for this year's ONE BBSCON will center on how to operate bulletin boards and web sites on the Internet. It is an area of intense interest.

None of this is terribly hard. Some of it does incur some expense. But there is a bit of a learning curve to go through. I guess I was thoroughly mystified by routers, leased lines, CSU/DSUs, and LAN connections to the Internet until I saw the wires, plugged in the cables and noticed that it wasn't much different from the stuff we do every day to connect modems to bulletin boards. You will not believe me now when I say it really isn't hard and really isn't any different. But it's not. And it gets easier almost daily as new products appear.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

INTERNET COVERAGE

I'd like to add my 2 bytes to the flurry about the various magazines covering the Internet. I am on a University faculty and have been an Internet user, advocate, and teacher for many years. I have watched it grow, then watched access explode. Until Mosaic came along, my interest was limited to email, ftp, and telnet. Everything I knew, and taught, about the Internet was extracted from FAQ's or from UNIX-wise colleagues. But the WWW changed everything for me, and for my students. Then curiosity resulted in glances at newsstand publications which previously I had snubbed. I think by now that I've seen them all. Even Boardwatch was not known to me (though my first call to a BBS occurred from a CPM machine with a 300 bps modem) until I opened my eyes. The only one I buy is Boardwatch. The rest are for kids.

Steve Taub
Biology Department

George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030
staub@gmu.edu

P.S. How may I purchase a back issue? I lost my copy of February '95 and had been using your http tutorial as the basis for a lecture in my course "Computer Applications for the Life Sciences." Thanks.

♦♦♦

Steve:

I'm very pleased we are hitting the mark with the Internauts with your experience perspective. I was curious. We spend a bit of time ferreting out what is interesting and perhaps useful in a networked world. We probably don't spend enough time on the part about producing a magazine and marketing it effectively. But I suspect that is the difference and I'm a little leary of changing it. My sense is that those that are accomplished at producing and marketing magazines, don't have a very good feel for what should go in them in this particular field. So forgive our typos and help us celebrate the new developments online.

Back issues are \$7 mailed first class. You can call our toll free 800-933-6038 to order.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

KOREAN INTERNET PROVIDER

If you wish, you may publish this, but I would like information on an internet provider for South Korea for a friend who is shipping off to Korea in June (Actually, a user on my BBS.) Thanks for any info.

I have been reading your magazine every month, and now, as my time to re-subscribe is beginning to roll around, I do believe I will renew as your BBS is a very useful source of information. I do hate to see, however that even the amateur you had in your magazine neglected to look at RA 2.02 for a BBS... RA is a very powerful software even though you have to use external utilities for many functions. That's what makes it so comfortable. You aren't limited to what the author of your BBS software puts in. I would also like to say that TBBS has very poor message area handling (at least every one I've ever been on) and very poor file area capability. I do like, however much of Wildcat! 4's new capabilities, and at last I'm seeing BBSes that aren't carbon copies of each other. I have yet to see MajorBBS tackle the message area & file area handling problems. Because TBBS has no file tagging capability, and it is designed to look like it only allows you to download one file at a time, it's very hard for a user to figure out what he/she is doing. I just wish Andrew Milner would upgrade to BorlandPascal 7 and come up with something a lot smaller and faster than what he has, but with more capabilities, like Digiboard (Which TP5.5 has troubles with).

Anyway, enough with my rambling on and on... I get compliments on my BBS all the time, and even though I don't run it on a "power" computer, it gets the job done well. (I run on an i8088-1 XT) It's not the SOFTWARE that makes a BBS great, it's the Capabilities, Vision of the SysOp, and the look and feel. As for WildCat!4, the file system is STILL a little difficult for the average user to master.

Cory Daehn, SysOp
The Dragon's Gate BBS
Heidenheimer, TX, USA
cdaehn@tenet.edu

♦♦♦

Cory:

BBS software is an enigma. Most BBS operators know what they run, and some rumors about the rest. I can see from your comments that you're a little behind the curve on every package you mention. TBBS does indeed have file tagging and batch download.

In any event, we don't know that Mr. Shaker didn't look at RA. We just know he didn't mention it in his column or select it for Mothra.

I do confess a little bit of amusement at your comments. Adam Hudson wrote a program titled TurboBBS specifically to look and act like a TBBS system. He was 13 years old at the time and couldn't afford TBBS itself. I played around on his TurboBoard during the first year of Boardwatch, and suggested various improvements and got to be pretty good friends with him. TurboBoard was actually the first BBS Boardwatch ever appeared on and was more or less my "home" before running a system myself.

He released this software as QuickBBS and it was something of a phenomenon. For awhile it probably ran on about 50% of the boards in the country. He sold it, and it wasn't upgraded for some time. Andrew Milner was in Perth Australia at the time and grew frustrated with the delays, so he wrote a dead knock-off of QuickBBS himself and called it Remote Access.

I actually selected RA as the "enclosed" software for a book project I was contemplating at the time - never completed. It was a marvelous piece of work. In the interim, RA has been "handled," "distributed," "sold," "owned by," and "represented by," a number of ethereal entities here in the United States as a commercial product. It has almost reached the point of "who's handling RA this month?" As a result, I don't think the product ever approached its potential, and RA users have had a pretty strange ride with regards to updates and support.

On a broader topic, which we hear a lot about, almost any BBS software virtually begs for its own magazine. They are for all intents and purposes operating systems with third party products, lots of lore on tips and

techniques, and could easily generate enough editorial. And a number of BBS software houses, including eSoft, MSI, and Galacticom, have indeed published their own house organs. But I doubt it would be economically feasible. We could easily do a column each month on each BBS software package out there - and its an idea. But it would make Boardwatch about 600 pages. And I'm just not ready for that at this point. Finally, columnists of Doug Shaker's caliber are just not around to do it.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

OS2 WARP

Hi Jack,

First off great magazine, it has a wealth of information. Secondly I'm sorry to hear that WARP ate your machine. Being a member of TEAMOS2 I thought I might offer any help I can to get you WARPING along. What kind of computer do you have? Also what devices? And what exactly happened that WARP ate your machine?

Bill Hemenway
TeamOS2
Sysop of Hobo's Aerie BBS
Seymour, Ct. (203)881-2193
FidoNet 1:141/570
Inet hemenway@callnet.com

♦♦♦

Bill:

Fair enough question given my comments. I've adopted a kind of arrogant position after the first 16 years with personal computers. If it is a pain to install for me, I can safely judge it a pain to install for most of our readers. And I don't have to pursue it to success to toss that off. A number of our readers actually do run OS/2 - even preWarped, and are very loyal and enthusiastic about this operating system. Dave Hughes is actually a little whacko on the topic. Jim Thompson, one of our columnists, loved Warp.

Specifically, the machine was a fairly "mature" 486-33MHz. It had one floppy drive, and one hard drive - a SCSI drive as I recall of about 500 MB. It had 8 MB of RAM and a VGA card. It was a pretty simple machine retired to my office at home.

The failure didn't give me a lot of information. It told me to put in the first disk and start it. I did, and it did. It asked for the second, and I gave it that one too. It asked for the third and I put it in. The system crashed with an error message on screen that was absolute nonsense but basically advised me to call you. My reaction was "pass and I'm done."

Unfortunately, when I tried to boot the computer without the floppies, it wouldn't do that either. I booted it from a DOS floppy,

and found that it had deleted my DOS bios files MSDOS.SYS and IO.SYS. There were some OS/2 files in their place but of course we never finished the install sequence so it would boot up neither DOS or OS/2. So yeah, it ate my machine. I eventually got my system files back on the hard drive and back in operation - though I was Warpless and running strictly on impulse drive.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

OS/2 ATE YOUR MACHINE?

Dear Jack,

I read you magazine from cover to cover each month, and usually agree with your sentiments on most topics. So I find myself somewhat dismayed to find in the March 95 issue you making an inflammatory statement about OS/2, without backing it up with some details.

Regarding OS/2, you said "It ate my machine, I want it back." I've installed and used OS/2 on 15 different systems, and even with the rare driver problem or IRQ conflict, had them up and running within an hour.

I've never seen or heard of anybody having their hardware or data eaten, so this is a real surprise to me. Would you care to explain in detail just how an operating system "ate" your machine? That kind of rash statement without some substantiation does a great disservice to current and future users of the only decent 32bit OS on the market today. You might be surprised to find that a substantial portion of the BBS community (your readership) use, and are quite pleased with the outstanding capabilities of OS/2. I really enjoy being able to run my mailer, be on the internet, and get data from my CD all at the same time with no significant loss of performance. I've yet to see a DOS/WIN or even WIN-NT system perform as well.

If you are having installation problems, there are thousands of us who'll be more than willing to help you get set up. Please don't sell us short.

SSgt Michael D. King, USAF
mking@wsnet.com
kingm@dmcm.ssc.af.mil

♦♦♦

SSgt Michael:

Well it ate mine. And it didn't want to give it back. And that's poor enough behavior from an operating system to warrant its dismissal out of hand. That I could call one of the "thousands" of you who have successfully installed OS/2 rather misses the point. I could also call Gary in from the next room. But that's not the point either. If I follow the "easy directions" on the box, load three diskettes, and get some gibberish error mes-

sage and instructions to call SSgt York and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police if I ever want to use my machine again, the software has rather lost my attention as a serious effort. There is no question whether or not I could get it installed, SSgt King, but a rather serious one as to whether or not I should bother. And that was precisely the point I was making.

If the implication is that those who don't have 20 years experience on a PC or Gary in the next room need to call YOU to install an operating system on their personal computer, this in itself speaks poorly of IBM and the computer industry itself.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

Dear Jack,

I love Boardwatch. As an Internet surfer and the sysop of a SLIP-connected, four-line BBS (WorldWorks Symposium, 310-312-3370, or telnet worldworks.com—end of shameless plug) I have found nearly every article in nearly every issue to contain useful information.

While I agree with 95 percent of your March issue editorial, I must take issue with the one example you used to illustrate your statement that "If you want less of something, simply tax it. If you want more of something subsidize it." Namely, "You want less illegitimacy? A bastard tax. What's so difficult?"

Perhaps this example illustrates the main drawback of oversimplifying issues. Yes, any behaviorist will tell you that behavior which is rewarded will increase in frequency and vice versa. But the contingencies of reinforcement for having unprotected sex are far removed from the resulting pregnancy, and taxing babies is not likely to have a measurable effect on sexual behavior. (Although it might have an effect on the probability of having an abortion, if that were legal, convenient, painless, and cheap.)

For one thing, among the poor the male sex partner usually carries more of the responsibility for unprotected sex than the physically weaker, usually younger, female. Yet, who do the politicians want to penalize? The single mothers. And by the way, the offspring of most so-called "teenage mothers" have biological fathers older than 21. So taxing the mothers would be punishing the victim.

For another thing, in the heat of passion the last thing a couple is thinking about is the tax implications of having children. If poor women had enough control over their lives to take tax implication into consideration, they wouldn't need tax disincentives to stop having illegitimate children.

Otherwise, keep up the good work!

Richard Stutsman
comquest@worldworks.com
♦♦♦

Richard:

I can think of no known examples supporting your thesis that taxing babies is not likely to have a measurable effect on sexual behavior. We haven't taxed any, and we have heavily subsidized them in a number of ways. I don't know for certain that taxing them would decrease their numbers, but I suspect it would.

The current argument that babies are caused by larger more powerful males is simply insupportable as well. It is a very popular argument among femmes quite shrilly desperate to divert attention from the problem through blame politics. But it's not likely to have any basis. The number of rape babies is not statistically significant in this argument and it does indeed take two to tango.

And how did it get to be penalize? We were talking about the cessation of subsidy, not penalty.

The trouble with oversimplifying problems is that it usually works, but irritates the hell out of those who spend their lives flying in the face of common sense.

My personal feeling is that the male/female alliance is primarily economic. We have attempted, with some success through an extraordinary period of change in divorce and welfare laws, to somehow allow women to derive an income from men without having to put up with the men. In fact, most of the noise in this current debate is striving mightily to shift the focus on "deadbeat fathers," that is, fathers who have been driven from their homes but who still somehow retain an entirely artificial legal obligation to provide the economic support for it.

So after effectively legislating that we'll support a given percentage of single women with children through welfare, we will criminalize the male population in divorce court in an attempt to get them to financially support the remaining homes they no longer are a part of? It is a bit like trying to drain water uphill economically and it doesn't actually work very effectively - predictably enough. Women and children will remain widely economically disadvantaged until we return to the basic economic contract that has governed the sexes for the last 50 million years.

But overlooked in this economic argument is the potentially more injurious element that a nation of children raised without fathers will begin to come unravelled around the moral and legal edges. We are already seeing the effects of this. And increasingly many are becoming aware that the leading cause of violence and crime among young people is they simply don't have a dad

involved in their upbringing. This is the real source of concern over illegitimacy - it produces millions of violent criminals. We already have a higher percentage of our population in prison than any other industrialized nation, and we really do face violent anarchy in our streets in the future.

Jack Rickard
♦♦♦

800 TELEPHONE NUMBERS REQUEST

Please note that your magazine is available here in Australia

Those living overseas including Australia cannot access the 1800 numbers in the US.

I would personally appreciate it if you could make it policy that your advertisers give their actual phone numbers in order to help those ringing from overseas.

This would help those who are overseas and want to do business with US companies and having the actual phone number would be a big help.

Hkay@ozemail.com.au
♦♦♦

We'll try to watch it.

Jack
♦♦♦

CBM, AMIGA, AND INTERNET

Dear Jack,

I love reading Boardwatch, and especially the letters to you as your responses are always inventive and funny, and usually right on the money!

I am trying to put together a (kind've) large system right now based on an Amiga 4000 LAN with 256 lines for my little niche in the market (if this all works out you may even be surprised yourself!). There are a couple of questions I have, however. One of my concerns is finding a reasonable local access dial-up for my service. I have spoken with the "friendly" people at Sprint and for some reason I get the feeling that this would not be the best way to go. So, my first question is, naturally, who else provides local dial-up for reasonable rates? My second problem is Internet connectivity. To put it bluntly, I am a moron when it comes to the Internet. I can do all the usual stuff, but when it comes down to the inner working of the whole thing, I am a newbie! Although my system is not projected to have Internet access until late this year (if I even go online!), and much may change between now and then, I would like to know what would be the best way to go. Should I lease a line from an Internet Access Provider, or should I take the plunge and go for a dedicated T1 line? If my system goes up, I want to provide unlimited Internet access, of course. Which do you

think would be better for me in the end, considering I may be online for a long, long time?

I'm coming in through a nifty little marketing loophole that the larger systems have simply either abandoned or forgotten about and perhaps this time next year you'll see a picture of my car (currently a 1971 LTD... rusted and on it's last little legs (er, wheels!) hehe. Anyway, those are the only things I have yet to work out in the grand scheme of things. There are some pretty heavy barriers to entering the market these days, especially with the telephone companies jumping into the middle of the Internet explosion! In other words, you gotta have the cash AND the system to back it up! I know that my little 256 line system will be a virtual dwarf in comparison to the other services, but I'm not really competing with them for the same thing. There is something to be said for simplicity (not ignorance)! Somehow I see the giants falling though, call it sixth sense, perhaps wishful thinking or fantasy, but something tells me at least one of the large systems will fall short this year (I hope I hope!). Perhaps it is my own system failure I feel? Who knows... Oh well, perhaps it seems to me that they are getting in over their heads or something?

Well, Thank you for taking the time and I look forward to reading the next issue of Boardwatch. Kudos to you especially as you are somewhat of an inspiration to me (who else could turn a newsletter into such a wonderfully human magazine!). :)

Denny Springle
Cyberlynx Communication
d.spspringle@genie.geis.com (yuk!)
♦♦♦

Denny:

It's a task, but it has made this all new again. You are not alone. Thousands of BBS operators are struggling with this. The learning curve appears steep, but it may not be as bad as it looks from the bottom.

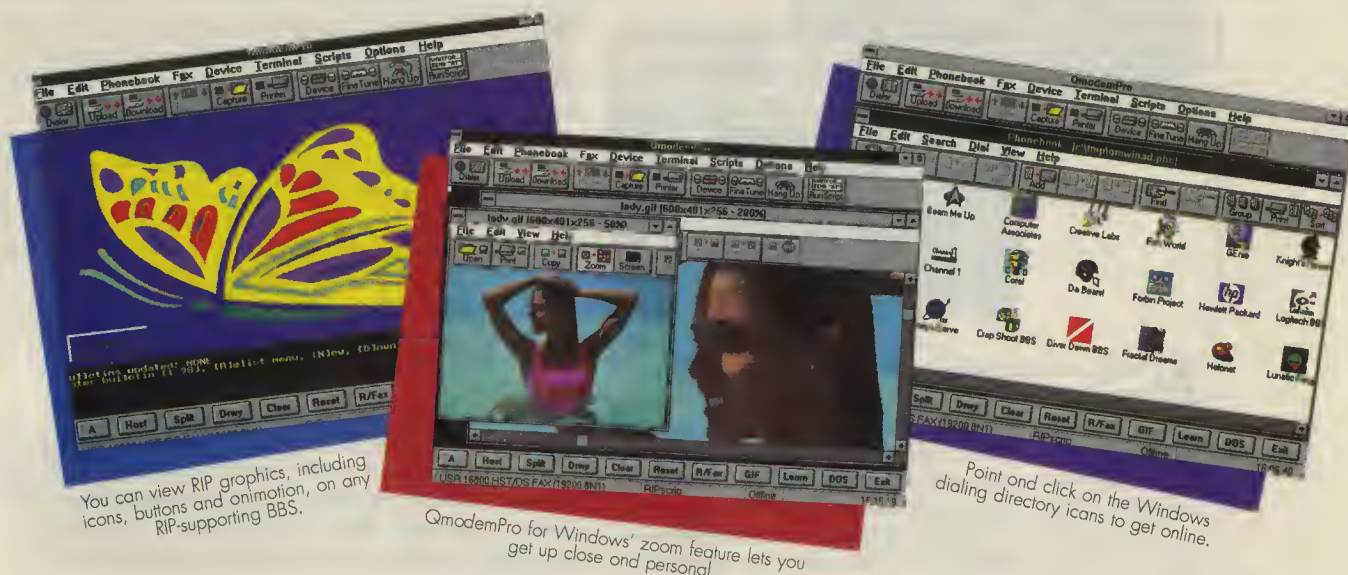
What level of Internet connection to get is of course a question. I think a lot of bulletin boards could do well with a fairly inexpensive 28.8 kbps SLIP pipe actually. But many are actually being drawn into providing Internet access and we're seeing some of the larger boards jump in with both feet and a 1.544 Mbps T-1 link right away. If it were me, and I guess it was, I would start out with a permanent SLIP line, and work my way up when I had too. But if you are really contemplating a 256 line system, you won't last there long.

Good luck with your system.

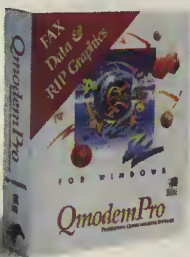
Jack Rickard
♦♦♦

WARNING!

This Product Contains Material Of An Extremely Graphic Nature.



QmodemPro for Windows delivers more advanced graphic features than any other communications software.



When it comes to graphics, nobody does it better than Mustang Software.

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so you can plug into the thousands of BBS systems offering graphics and full mouse support online.

QmodemPro for Windows was the first commercially available product in the industry to support RIPscript. QmodemPro for Windows also has a built-in GIF viewer that lets you view GIF graphics files as you download them. You can even ZOOM in for details. And QmodemPro has Windows icons for dialing directories, a true Windows phonebook. All you have to do to get online is double click on an icon.

No other communications software delivers graphic features like QmodemPro for Windows.

Recommended by Sysops everywhere.

But graphics aren't the only reason Sysops around the world recommend QmodemPro for Windows. They like it because it's powerful and easy to use, and can launch both data and fax calls. What they like most, though, is the fact that QmodemPro for Windows is packed with performance features that have been specifically requested by BBS callers.

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If you're looking for graphic features, pay attention to the warning. QmodemPro for Windows by Mustang Software.

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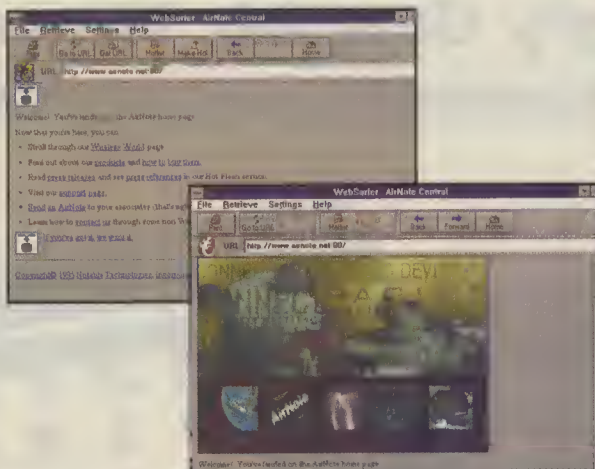


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TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

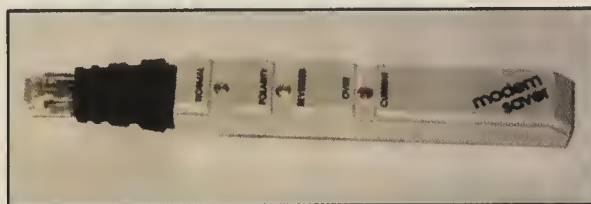
By Jim Thompson
Western News Service



Notable Technologies Inc. has announced a new Web site that offers easy access to wireless industry information and allows people to page any AirNote™ subscriber instantly via the World Wide Web. The new site also provides access to comprehensive information about Notable, including product information, customer support information and news releases. Notable is the only paging service provider to offer paging access through the World Wide Web.

Web Address: <http://www.airnote.net/>

Contact: Notable Technologies Inc. (510)208-4424



Road Warriors may want to look to the Web for information on traveling with their computers. The Road Warrior (r) Outpost at <http://warrior.com> caters to the traveling computing professional, carrying modem accessories, memory and hard drive upgrades, batteries and battery chargers, "Wetsuit" carrying cases and backpacks, and several cellular products.

Among the Road Warrior products is the Modem Saver™, a device for testing telephone lines before connecting sensitive modems. The Outpost also carries modem/telephone adapters, telephone adapters and power adapters.

CONTACT: AR Industries, (800)-274-4277



The PocketPlus wireless modem from Sierra Wireless Inc. was honored at the Mobile Insights 1995 conference in Scottsdale, Arizona as the year's best two-way wireless modem.

The awards were sponsored by Mobile Letter and PC World magazine. The PocketPlus, the smallest wireless modem on the market, features multiple data communications options including 19,200 bps Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD), as well as 14,400 bps V.32bis and V.17 fax over circuit switched cellular and wireline Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

The PocketPlus modem for Windows is available in the \$1,195-\$1,295 (U.S.) price range depending on service and support configurations through leading cellular service providers, systems integrators and Sierra Wireless. The PocketPlus for Macintosh is now in beta trials with availability and pricing to be announced.

Contact: Sierra Wireless Inc., (604)231-1100

Cystal Computer Corporation is shipping the "world's first genuine Plug and Play sound cards." In computer systems running Windows 3.1 and MS-DOS, Crystal's QuickStart Plug and Play installation software allows the user to automatically configure the card. This means that the user does not need to set complicated system resources such as interrupt request levels (IRQs), direct memory access (DMA) channels, input/output (I/O) port addresses or memory addresses.

Each card uses the Yamaha OPL3, 20-voice FM stereo synthesizer, the OPTi/MediaChips MAD 16 audio controller and the Crystal Semiconductor CS 4231 or Analog Devices AD 1845 analog/digital converter. The SCSI-2 models add the Future Domain 9C50 SCSI-2 controller, providing a 2 Mb per second average data transfer rate (5 Mb per second burst rate) from the CD-ROM drive or other SCSI devices. On all models, the PC interface is a 16-bit DMA bus.

The Crystalizer Plug and Play Multi CD has a suggested retail price (SRP) of \$249.95 and the Crystalizer Plug and Play SCSI-2 has a SRP of \$279.95.

Contact: Crystal Computer Corporation, (408)383-2100



Plextor Corp., has announced the first six-speed, half-height CD-ROM drive. Dubbed the 6PleX, this new drive line offers the fastest data throughput and access times available in CD-ROM performance with a 900Kb per second data transfer rate and a 145ms random access time.

List price for the internal drive will be **\$599**. List price for the drive bundled with a 16-bit SCSI host adapter will be **\$649**.

Plextor Corp., also announced the expansion of their network solutions line with a new quad-speed, hot-swap CD-ROM server designated PleXServer. This combination of computer and CD-ROM drives acts as a dedicated CD-ROM server. It can be connected anywhere on a network via Thin-net or 10BaseT and serve up to 28 drives when used in combination with Plector's CD-ROM drives.

Because you connect it to the network and not the file server, it can provide access to CD-ROM data even when the file server goes down. The PleXServer is scheduled for release early in the second quarter of 1995.

Contact: Plector Corp., (800)886-3935

Designer Software Inc. is now shipping DBExpert™ Version 1.0. DBExpert is a full-featured OS/2 database that is easy to use without learning a programming language or SQL, allowing users to quickly create tables, forms, reports or complete applications. The product works with most popular database formats, including DB2/2, dBASE and Oracle. DBExpert costs **\$495**.

Contact: Designer Software, (303)858-0200.

Bitstream has announced two new applications of its TrueDoc font imaging technology that allow users to publish, send and receive multilingual and font-rich documents on the Internet. Accent Software has licensed TrueDoc for its e-mail utility, code named "Scotty," enabling users to send and receive electronic mail in multilingual character sets. No Hands Software has incorporated TrueDoc into Common Ground 2.0, their document distribution application, to let Internet users easily publish and link rich online documents regardless of the fonts, format, application, operating system or platform.

TrueDoc technology is available for OEM licensing immediately. Bitstream's TrueDoc technology has the potential to be incorporated in operating systems and component architectures, integrating document viewing technology with editing and document management.

Contact: OEM sales at Bitstream, (617)497-6222.

A notebook computer privacy filter that weighs under one pound and measures only 1/2" thick captured one of the top prizes at the International Stationery Press Association (ISPA) show in Frankfurt, Germany.

The 3M PF 50 notebook privacy filter won first prize in the computer accessories and supplies category of the show. The filter is ideal for airline travelers and others who need privacy when using their notebook computers in public places. Other features include an anti-glare feature to improve contrast and reduce glare from office lights or sunlight and a carrying case and frame. The packaging is made from 100 percent recycled paper.

Contact: 3M Optical Systems, (800)553-9215.

SBE Inc. (San Ramon, Calif.) and NTT-IT (Yokohama, Japan) have announced a partnership agreement for NTT-IT to provide its ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) PCMCIA card for incorporation into SBE's netXpand family of remote access products.

NTT-IT's ISDN PCMCIA Card is called the M-Card 64 Smart in Japan (the name of the card in the United States will be determined at a later date). It is an ISDN/BRI adapter implemented on a PCMCIA II form factor. The first

release of the M-Card 64 Smart card will be compliant with the U.S. NT-I standard. The card, which weighs only 1.1 ounces without the cable, supports all switch modes for digital data communications. The M-Card 64 Smart card will be available in the third quarter of 1995 and will be priced at **\$699**.

Contact: SBE, Inc., (510)355-2000

(Jim Thompson is Managing Editor of Western News Service in Los Angeles, California. He also manages the Marlboro Racing News BBS. CompuServe: 72777,2677, MCI Mail: 321-4127, INTERNET: jim.thompson@wnsnews.com)

MORE ON THE MICROSOFT NETWORK



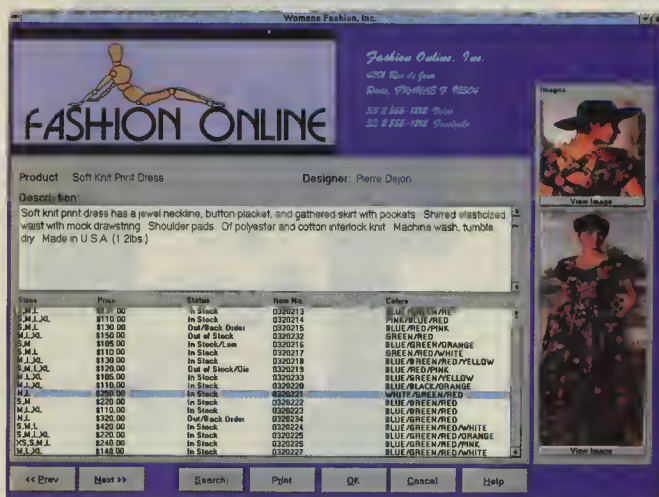
Microsoft is causing terror at some of the larger commercial online services with its plan for a Microsoft Network. The introduction of "Marvel" is scheduled to coincide with release of Windows95 — currently August 1995. As of March 15, Microsoft had shipped more than 400,000 beta test versions of Windows95. With expected 1995 sales of nearly 20 million copies, each Windows95 user is just a mouse click away from being on the network. The five largest commercial services currently share a pool of perhaps 6 million callers. The terror is that Microsoft will effectively "own" both ends — the client portion in Windows95 and the online service it connects to.

The server itself actually runs on a series of some 178 four-processor Pentium machines, each with a Gigabyte of RAM, running the WindowsNT Server operating system. But there may be more to fear than

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At BSI Technologies, we give you the choices that allow you to create a successful online service. Our staff consists of experienced programmers and system integrators with a diverse background in online network technology. Let us be the support team that brings your application online.

If you're thinking about starting your own online service, or need assistance with your existing online service, we can participate in the design and implementation of your vision. Our staff has over 30 years of combined experience in the telecommunications industry and we are dedicated to helping you choose the best software and hardware available to make your system a success. We also offer complete turnkey systems for "plug and play" solutions.



Online Databases:

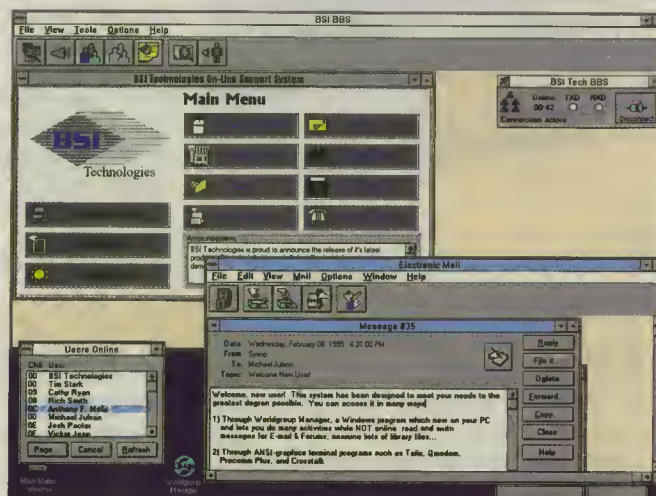
Our xBase programmers can create a build-to-suit solution in record time. Running MultiBase, an advanced client/server database engine, you can connect these powerful applications to your system through either serial connectivity or TCP/IP. And xBasic is our own integrated database solution, specifically designed for Worldgroup, for small to medium sized applications.

Service Contracts:

Monthly and yearly support contracts are offered --- including 24 hour support service --- to guarantee access to technical answers whenever you need them. We also have Help Desk Support for your callers, to eliminate hiring a large staff for your location.

Service Bureau:

For those who don't have the time or technical skills necessary to run their own online service, using our service bureau can be a cost effective alternative. We take care of the details, such as daily backups, off site storage, a disaster recovery plan, and a technical support help desk for your callers, so you can concentrate on promoting your system.



Custom Programming:

Need an online feature that no one else offers? Our full-time development team can provide custom applications for Worldgroup written in C, Visual Basic and Assembly. Just give us your specifications and we will design, write, test and install a module that meets your exact requirements.

Training Classes:

We offer a complete line of training seminars for the system operator. From novice computer users to experts, our courses offer all the information you need to get your new online service up and running fast --- or to learn the "tricks of the trade" for optimizing your existing system.

These seminars are available at our educational facilities in South Florida, or they can be delivered on-site and customized to your specific audience.

If you can dream it, BSI Technologies can help you make it happen. For more information, call us for a free brochure of our services at (305) 434-0189.

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just the fact that Microsoft owns the service based on a more economical and flexible computer architecture, and the client software that is provided in its new operating system release. Microsoft apparently has some pretty serious plans for Internet access. Microsoft essentially bought UUNET Technologies, a progressive Internet Service Provider in Falls Church Virginia. UUNET was founded by Rick Adams, who incidentally wrote the first Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP) application. UUNET was among the very first commercial Internet Service Providers.

But it also appears that TeleCommunications Inc., (TCI) the largest cable television operator in the world, has invested some **\$125 million** to own **20 percent** of the new Microsoft Network. Between UUNET and TCI, there is virtually nothing preventing very high bandwidth Internet connections to the home via the cable TV coax or fiber already in use. MSN users even at this stage can send and receive Internet e-mail and will be able to telnet and ftp to anyplace on the Internet. Microsoft could fairly easily wind up as the largest Internet Service Provider in the country within a few years. Call **(800)957-7384** to get more information or order Windows95.

HONG KONG INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS SHUT DOWN

Some 10,000 Internauts in Hong Kong found themselves in the Information Super Ditch when members of the Hong Kong Commercial Crime Bureau shut down seven Hong Kong Internet Service Providers on March 3. The raid appears to have been triggered by Hong Kong SuperNet — the only ISP to have a Public Non-Exclusive Telecommunications (PNET) license in a move to eliminate all competition. Hong Kong SuperNet already had approximately 80 percent of the market in Hong Kong.

At least two ISPs had equipment seized and all face fines of up to **HK \$10,000** and up to five years in prison. The licenses cost only **HK \$750** per year, but they are only available to legitimate companies that also pay the **HK \$5000** registration and **HK \$10,000** compulsory audit fee. Several of the ISPs claimed to have pending applications at the time of the raid.

Worse, many of the islands 700 electronic bulletin boards fear they will be next. And one aspect of the PNET

license we are still unclear on is an apparent ability for the telephone company in Hong Kong to surcharge PNET operators **HK nine cents per minute** on incoming calls. This would effectively gut BBS activity on the island. Ironically, the telecommunications structure in Hong Kong is already scheduled for deregulation this coming July 1, 1995.

THE SPA USES THE COPYRIGHT LAW'S CRIMINAL STATUTE FOR THE FIRST TIME...

The bbs operator of the "Davy Jones Locker," Richard Kenadek, has been sentenced by U.S. District Court to 24 months probation and six months of home confinement, with the first three months monitored by an electronic bracelet. The 42-year old Kenadek is also required to forfeit all the computer equipment related to the operation of the bbs. The Software Publishers Association (SPA) monitored Kenadek's board for four months last year and representatives of the SPA downloaded copyrighted business and entertainment programs that were posted without permission of the publishers. Kenadek pled guilty in 1994 to criminal copyright infringement. The Kenadek case is the first time the criminal statute under the copyright law has been used to prosecute a bulletin board operator. "This is a crucial turning point on the road to eliminating piracy among bulletin board operators," said Sandra Sellers, SPA director of litigation.

MAINLINING THE ONLINE DRUG OF CHOICE...

Social pathologies are beginning to surface in cyberspace. Certain segments of the population seem to be developing addictive behavior to the online experience. "Online service is not as reliable as cocaine or alcohol but in the contemporary world, it is a fairly reliable way of shifting consciousness," according to a Harvard Medical School expert. In an informal survey focusing on overuse of online services, 100 respondents admitted feeling a stimulation by going online, 22 reported a "cocaine-like rush" and 12 others noted that online chatting helped them to relax.

ELEVEN CYBER-LUMINARIES SHED LIGHT ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS...

In an interview in the March/April edition of *Educom Review*, Internet pioneer Vint Cerf says: "I hope and

believe that it will be possible to provide universal access through competitive cost reduction and, where appropriate, business incentives. Alternatives that apply regulatory methods to achieve this goal are often found to be inimical to good business practice and, therefore, artificial and risky at best." Communications expert Peter Huber says, "Broadband cyberspace is still too new, too variable, too unexplored, to be defined and homogenized by policy makers into some sort of uniform telecom porridge." Assistant Commerce Secretary Larry Irving and Laura Breedon of NTIA say, "We believe that all Americans, not only those who own computers or who live in affluent areas, must have access to the advanced information technologies and services." Cerf, Huber, Irving and Breedon join Ervin Duggan, George Gilder, Ralph Nader, Lewis Perelman, Ken Robinson, William Schrader and Rick Weingarten, in an *Educom Review* discussion of "Universal Access: Should We Get In Line?" For a little more information about "Universal Access," read Jim Warren's Government Access this month.

EVER FEEL LIKE TOSSING YOUR COOKIES IN VIRTUAL REALITY?

If you've ever used virtual reality head gear, you might have experienced those jiggly, swimming images that don't track precisely with your head and eye movements. It's called "simulator sickness," and a graduate student at MIT's Research Laboratory of Electronics is working on a prototype for an inertial tracker to replace the magnetic system tracker that's been used for the last 10 years. The inertial tracker senses the orientation of a person's head, using three tiny solid-state gyroscopes built into a plastic block attached to the top of the head gear. The gyros measure angular changes directly, taking a fraction of the time that magnetic systems require to reorient the visual display. In combination with position-tracking technology, the student hopes to produce a head display that provides a more realistic virtual experience.

MITNICK PROBABLY USED SATAN TO CRACK FIREWALLS...

SATAN software (an acronym standing for Security Administrator Tool for Analyzing Networks), which was developed by Dan Farmer of Silicon Graphics to scan thousands of host computers on the Internet for security

vulnerabilities, may have been stolen by Kevin Mitnick, the computer hacker who was arrested last month by the FBI and is now under indictment for 23 counts of fraud involving computer use. Mitnick broke into Farmer's account on the WELL, a California Internet service provider. Farmer says he has no way of knowing whether Mitnick shared copies of SATAN over the Internet.

SATAN is a project headed by Dan Farmer (e-mail://zen@bi.fish.com) and Wietse Venema of the Netherlands. It is actually designed to allow system administrators to run against their own sites to find security problems. But many security consultants claim it will be very popular with hackers who will use it for nefarious purposes. The project is discussed in the USENET News Group comp.security.misc. Full documentation for the program was released March 15 in ftp://ftp.win.tue.nl:/pub/security/satan_doc.tar.Z. The program itself was released April 5 in the file ftp://ftp.win.tue.nl:/pub/security/satan.tar.Z.

PRODIGY: "WE'RE SORR-RRY."

A software glitch caused Prodigy's mail system to send 473 e-mail messages, March 10, 1995, to wrong members and to lose 4,901 messages on the Internet. The mail system was shut down for five hours, and Prodigy apologized to its members for the malfunction.

ON THE NET, EVERYTHING YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SCAMS, NUTRITION, LABELS, SOCIAL SECURITY AND MORE...

Last month, the Federal Trade Commission activated an Internet site, enabling consumers to view or download the text of nearly 150 free brochures on topics ranging from franchising to credit to hireable solicitations. The FTC plans to use its Internet site to keep the public informed of consumer protection news. Gopher to consumer.ftc.gov 2416 or point your browser to gopher://consumer.ftc.gov:2416 for Web access. The Consumer Information center also jacked in to the 'Net with 275 government booklets listed in the Consumer Information Catalog free. E-mail cic.info@pueblo.gsa.gov for details.

IDD LAUNCHES CLIENT-SERVER NEWS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM...

To serve the growing market for distribution of live news feeds within corporations, IDD Information Services has begun delivering News Agent, a client-server system based on open architecture that filters news in real-time. The user establishes a profile within the software and the fulltext of each arriving story is analyzed for relevance to the profile. Matching stories are delivered immediately to the desktop computer. For further information about this news system contact Doran Howitt at (201)740-2605, Internet e-mail Dhowitt@iddis.com or write Howitt at IDD Information Services, 293 Eisenhower Parkway Ste. 250, Livingston, N.J. 07039

OFF-LINE EXPRESS FOR WINDOWS—HELPS BBS CALLERS SAVE MONEY

Mustang Software, Inc. has introduced Off-Line Xpress (OLX) for Windows v1.0, a new electronic mail reader that helps callers to bulletin board systems manage their mail more easily and less expensively. OLX for Windows is a QWK-compatible mail reader (a popular e-mail format for bbss) that allows callers to read and reply to messages off-line, saving them from having to run up long-distance toll charges while they remain online. Contact: (800)999-9619.

POWERMAC EXCEEDS 1-YEAR EXPECTATIONS

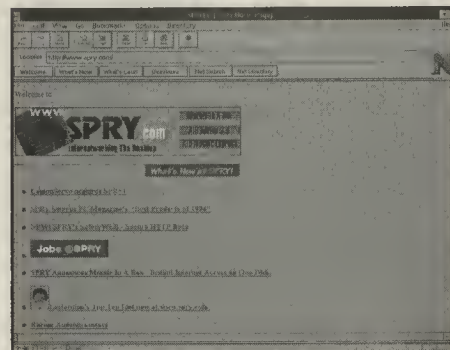
Apple Computer, Inc. is celebrating the first anniversary of the Power Macintosh computer line. Earlier the company disclosed the shipment of over one million machines within the first 9.5 months of introduction. The sales and demand for the Power Macintosh are "well in excess of our initial expectations," Apple spokesperson Amy S. Kavanaugh said, "in the year since its release the Power Macintosh has achieved widespread customer and developer acceptance."

MOTOROLA READIES PCM/GSM PHONE DATA TECH

Motorola is working on its own version of data over GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) digital phone services. The technology neatly catches up with Nokia, which has monopolized the GSM datacomms market over the last six months with its PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Card International

Association) connector for digital mobile phones. Two devices are being readied for launch over the coming months on a global basis for GSM users. The devices are known as Collect 1 and Collect 2. Collect 1 offers users a PCMCIA Type II card connector that plugs into a PCMCIA equipped PC and interfaces with any Motorola GSM phone. Plans are also in hand to develop a Collect 1 option for the next generation of Motorola PCN phones. Contact: Motorola GmbH +49-611-3611-334.

COMPUERVE LAYS OUT \$100 MILLION FOR SPRY



\$100 million is a big chunk of change, but if you want something bad enough, money doesn't matter. CompuServe wanted Seattle-based Spry, Inc. real bad, probably because Spry is the publisher of "Internet In A Box," and CIS needs to strengthen its position on the Internet's fast-growing, graphical World Wide Web. Spry's other products include Mosaic In A Box and the Air Series of Internet access utilities. The deal included \$39.7 million in cash and \$60.3 million in H&R Block, Inc. stock. Spry will become a division of CompuServe. Spry founder David Pool will become an executive vice president at CompuServe. For further information on Spry or their products call (800)777-9638 or (206)447-0300 for customer service. For those of who who have Internet capabilities, you can write info@spry.com or check Spry's homepage at http://www.spry.com.

SUPRA MAC/FAX NEWS AND AN INEXPLICABLE NEW AREA CODE

Supra news on the fax front: Faxcilitate (Mac) now supports E-Fax Communications Inc., fax broadcast service. Also, new FAXnetwork 2.8 (Macs share a fax modem) is out with support for including named cover pages, shared group phone books, Class2 support and more; 4D, Omnis,

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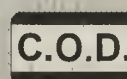
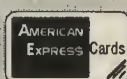
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Shopping Mall	\$189.00	Galactibox (16 slot modem chassis)	\$1379.00
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 QSO \$79
 Interchange \$116
 GTEK BBS 550 w/cables \$395
 GTEK BlackBoard 4 w/cables \$215
 Digiboards, US Robotics, CD Disks CALL
 Digiboard PC/8 with 16550's CALL
 Boca Modem 14.4 external \$116
 Pioneer DRM-602x Dbl-speed 6 disk changer \$475
 Future Domain TMC-1660 svp controller v-pak.. \$129

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Hypercard and FileMaker Pro external kits are now available, too. And now for something awkward: Supra's area code is changing from **206** to **360**, but you may not be able to dial it, because some telco local phone exchanges and some corporate PBX systems haven't yet had their software upgraded to treat a number as an area code when its second digit isn't a zero or one. Through the end of May, you can still use their old **206** area code, but you should try **360** and complain LOUDLY if your phone system treats it like a local number. Contact: SUPRA CORPORATION, (360)905-1469 or (206)905-1469. Web site is at <http://www.supra.com>.

EVEN IF COURT CLERK ERRS, EVIDENCE CAN BE ADMITTED

The Supreme Court ruled on March 1 that evidence obtained in a search prompted by erroneous information on a police computer can be admitted in court. In *Arizona v. Evans*, the Court reversed the decision of the Arizona Supreme Court. The 7-2 decision holds that an unjustified arrest and search caused by an administrative error by a court employee who did not update a computer database did not warrant the suppression of the evidence obtained through the search. The case has been remanded back down to the Arizona Courts, which may come up with an independent state basis to exclude the evidence. If you are looking for more citations on this case or any other U.S. Supreme Court decision, Cleveland Free-net maintains a Supreme Court Opinion area reachable by modem at (216)368-3888, or you can obtain opinions in ASCII text, XyWrite, or Word Perfect formats from <ftp://ftp.cwru.edu> in the /hermes directory.

LONG-DISTANCE CALLS ON THE INTERNET

In our April issue, we reviewed an Internet Phone product from

Vocaltec that allows voice conversations over the Internet — even using 14.4 kbps SLIP connections. The product has already been such a huge success it is cratering Internet Relay Chat servers all over the country. The Internet Phone uses IRC servers to allow Internet Phone users to find each other on the net. Even though all sound data is transmitted via the User Datagram Protocol (UDP) directly between users, the traffic just in posting your name and IP number effectively on IRC servers has clogged the servers incredibly. Vocaltec's response to the problem has been to erect their own IRC servers for the exclusive use of the Internet Phone. They have one at iphone.vocaltec.com. They have also found a couple of other servers that will still welcome Internet Phone activity. You can browse the <http://www.vocaltech.com> for a complete list and simply capture it to your `IRCSRV.S.INI` file in the Internet Phone directory.

Signs of success are elsewhere. Vocaltec has announced two very interesting relationships. VocalTec and Cirrus Logic Inc., have agreed to bundle VocalTec's Internet Phone software with audio and modem chips developed by the Cirrus subsidiary Crystal Semiconductor. These chips are sold in turn to PC sound card and system manufacturers — indicating that sound cards with Internet Phone built in are probably just around the corner.

Further, VocalTec has also entered into an agreement with Motorola to bundle the Internet Phone with Motorola's Power Class V.34 modems. Motorola's Information Systems Group Transmission Products Division makes the Power Class modems.

"The relationship with VocalTec is a natural for Motorola, which has long been a leader in the communications industry," said Ray Wright, Motorola's director of marketing for analog transmission products. "Until now you could do a lot of things with modems, but you couldn't use them for voice communications. We see this move as a way to give our modem customers connecting to the Internet access to the benefits that voice communications can provide. We also envision a broad array of voice/data applications that this technology will enable."

VocalTec President and CEO Elon Ganor said, "The relationship between VocalTec and Motorola, a company known internationally for its quality products and technological leadership,

expands even further VocalTec's Internet Phone accessibility and is indicative of the excitement this product is propelling at all levels of the communications industry. This is the type of collaboration VocalTec is seeking."

The almost instant acceptance of the Internet Phone is striking. We think the technology is still emerging. For example, the Internet Phone is a half-duplex solution — similar in operation to a speaker phone or ham radio. You can talk or listen, but not both at the same time. And this is a little irritating to use. Meanwhile, Camelot Corporation and Third Planet Publishing are rolling out a product titled DIGIPHONE - THE INTERNET DIGITAL PHONE SYSTEM on March 29th in Dallas. This product claims FULL duplex operation and more sophisticated features than VocalTec's phone system. More on DIGIPHONE in our June issue....

For more information on Internet Phone, contact VocalTec, Inc., 157 Veterans Highway, Northvale, NJ 07647; (201)768-9400 voice; (201)768-8893 fax; <http://www.vocaltec.com>; e-mail: info@vocaltec.com.

For more information on Motorola's Power Class modems, contact Motorola, ISG/Transmission Products Division, 5000 Bradford Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805; (800)451-2369 voice; <http://www.mot.com/MIMS/ISG>.

COPYRIGHT LAW TAKES ANOTHER HIT

The U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled that Lotus's menu structure is "uncopyrightable subject matter," thus setting a precedent for future copyright cases. Lotus VP and general counsel calls the decision a "gross misreading of U.S. copyright law," and warns that the decision will undermine software developers incentives for creative innovation. Mark E. Brown, a California computer law expert disagrees — he sees an industry no longer held hostage and victimized by inappropriate copyright suits, resulting in a growth in software development. Both sides think the ruling will spur software developers to seek patents for their creations — a process that can take two to three years and cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$100,000, depending on complexity. Contact Mark E. Brown, Poms, Smith, Lande & Rose, 2029 Century Park

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GENERAL ATOMICS NOT PROVIDING THEIR FAIR SHARE TO THE NET

The InterNIC has been a collaboration among AT&T, General Atomics and Network Solutions, Inc. supported by three five-year cooperative agreements with the National Science Foundation. These agreements stipulated that a peer review during the second year of performance would determine the future level of funding. The review (the final report of this review will soon be available on the network) found that General Atomics was not providing the promised level of service to the community and recommended that funding be discontinued. NSF agreed with this recommendation and has terminated the cooperative agreement with General Atomics, effective immediately. Steps are being taken to minimize the disruption to the research and education community and to continue the services which the panel identified as having significant value.

IBM PLANNING GLOBAL INTERNET PRESENCE

Judging from the previews that IBM had at the Cebit Computer Faire, Big Blue seems to be planning a huge presence for itself in the Internet marketplace. IBM is pitching for small-to medium-sized businesses with its Internet service, right through to the major corporations. "Obviously we're aiming at the business user, although the residential side of the Internet market is quite vast. We're finding a terrific take-up on the business Internet," according to Anna Russell. The Internet facilities of OS/2 Warp generated a significant amount of interest at Cebit. IBM is working on developing OS/2 Warp Connect, a network-savvy version of OS/2 that also allows access to online services such as CompuServe, and the Internet. IBM has enhanced its Global Network service to support Internet access over the last few months. In Europe, IBM claims, the company has established itself as an international supplier of dial access to the Internet, with seven dial-up access points-of-presence (POPs) and plans are to expand the network, both in the United Kingdom and worldwide. Contact: IBM, tel +44-1705-561780, fax +44-1705-385081.

MUSTANG SOFTWARE GOES PUBLIC

Joining the growing ranks of telecom software companies going public, Mustang Software International (MSI), the publisher of QmodemPro and the Wildcat! BBS has filed an initial public offering (IPO) for one million shares, which is expected to raise **\$5-\$6 million**. MSI, publishers of the Wildcat! BBS software, acquired Qmodem from its author and publisher, John Friel only a few years ago. MSI has since updated the program and released a new Windows version. At about the same time the company also acquired off-line mail processing software. The much anticipated Windows version of Offline Express (OLX) was released just this month by MSI. Contact: **(805)873-2500 ext 9000**, fax **(805)873-2599**, Internet e-mail **rick.heming@mustang.com**. The initial public stock offering is being handled by Cruttenden Roth Incorporated, 18301 Van Karman, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 92715; **(714)757-5700**.

GOT TIME FOR A QUICK DOG FIGHT AT 30,000 FEET?

Continental Airlines joins USAir and America West in offering seat-back computers that allow passengers to check their e-mail, transmit a fax, check stock quotes and play computer games — all at 30,000 feet. By the end of the year, the airline plans to have 183 planes equipped with **FlightLink** computers.

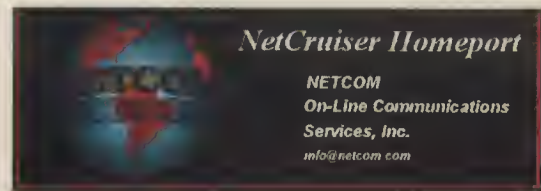
NETCOM HITS 100,000 INTERNET ACCOUNTS

NETCOM Online Communications Services, Inc., has emerged as one of the more successful national Internet Service Providers — offering everything from UNIX shell accounts to SLIP/PPP to larger connections for businesses. They built their own national backbone linking some **73** metro locations across the United States.

The company completed an initial public offering of stock last December 15th and is now listed on the NASDAQ as NETC. Volpe, Welty and Company handled the offering.

On March 6, the company announced addition of customer number **100,000**. Just a year ago, the company sported some **11,400** subscribers, which increased to **41,500** in September 1994,

to **72,500** by December 1994, and **100,000** by the first week of March 1995 - fairly phenomenal growth, and probably the reason you can't reach these guys by phone most of the time. They now claim to be the leading commercial Internet Service Provider.



One of the ways they got there was with a Windows software package titled **NetCruiser** that is available in some 1,500 retail outlets and only works with their Internet service - it uses Compressed Serial Line Internet Protocol (CSLIP). The program combines web browsing with gopher, telnet, ftp, irc, newsgroups and e-mail. A NetCruiser account costs **\$25** to setup, **\$19.95** per month, which includes 40 hours of access. The program has been well reviewed in a number of publications. See the accompanying sidebar for cities/exchanges with local access.

The company has been struggling with growth and the community has complained of lack of customer service and ongoing problems with mail, newsgroups, and broken connections. On February 15th, the company announced a price increase on the dialup UUCP accounts many BBS operators use to exchange mail with the service. The most popular News/Mail/Shell accounts, which had been available at a flat monthly rate of **\$60** per month, were increased to **\$90** monthly effective April 15th. A number of BBS operators flamed the 50 percent price increase in various newsgroups. But others were hopeful that the price increase would decrease the demand for the service sufficiently that customer service would return to normal.

Expansion plans continue. The company has just purchased 200 of U.S. Robotics' Total Control Enterprise Network Hubs featuring 28.8 kbps V.34 dialup modems. They'll use these hubs to expand their network to some 175 cities by the end of 1995. NETCOM On-Line Communication Services, Inc., 3031 Tisch Way, San Jose, CA 95128; **(800)353-6600** voice; **(408)983-5950** voice; **(408)941-2145** fax; **info@netcom.com**; **http://www.netcom.com**

NETCOM LOCATIONS

ACCESS NUMBER / METROPOLITAN AREA

201-557-6020	JERSEY CITY/NEWARK, NJ
201-623-5765	Newark, NJ
201-777-2722	PATERSON, NJ
203-895-4000	Hartford, CT
203-921-1077	STAMFORD, CT
206-547-5992	Seattle, WA
210-349-4190	SAN ANTONIO, TX
212-803-6721	New York, NY
214-753-0045	DALLAS, TX
215-496-3140	Philadelphia, PA
216-732-3048	CLEVELAND, OH
303-758-0101	Denver, CO
305-994-9930	MIAMI, FL
310-595-4011	Long Beach, CA
310-815-4000	LOS ANGELES, CA
312-380-0340	Chicago, IL
313-213-5100	ANN ARBOR, MI
313-592-3900	Detroit, MI
314-487-4885	ST. LOUIS, MO
315-461-5800	Syracuse, NY
317-261-0081	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
401-621-1810	Providence, RI
402-341-7401	OMAHA, NE
404-303-7332	Atlanta, GA
407-249-6625	ORLANDO, FL
408-261-4700	San Jose, CA
408-459-9851	SANTA CRUZ, CA
408-644-7850	Monterey, CA
410-715-6900	COLUMBIA, MD
410-863-4848	Baltimore, MD
412-394-0630	PITTSBURGH, PA
414-227-1146	Milwaukee, WI
415-328-9940	PALO ALTO, CA
415-455-1232	San Rafael, CA
415-985-5650	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
503-626-6833	Portland, OR
504-459-3000	NEW ORLEANS, LA
510-274-2900	Walnut Creek, CA
510-426-6610	PLEASANTON, CA
510-865-9004	Alameda, CA
512-419-9095	AUSTIN, TX
513-794-0545	Cincinnati, OH
516-663-6470	GARDEN CITY/MINEOLA, NY
518-869-4700	Albany, NY
602-222-3900	PHOENIX, AZ
606-226-2900	Lexington, KY
608-271-1452	MADISON, WI
609-344-0023	Atlantic City, NJ
609-734-4180	PRINCETON, NJ
612-362-6400	Minneapolis, MN
614-487-3705	COLUMBUS, OH
615-360-3133	Nashville, TN
616-776-2700	GRAND RAPIDS, MI
617-237-8600	Boston, MA
619-234-0524	SAN DIEGO, CA
702-792-9340	Las Vegas, NV
703-242-8936	WASHINGTON, DC
713-993-0989	Houston, TX
714-708-3801	SANTA ANA/IRVINE, CA
716-787-8500	Rochester, NY
716-842-3200	BUFFALO, NY
801-238-1740	Salt Lake City, UT
804-623-4654	NORFOLK, VA
813-288-4936	Tampa, FL
818-585-3400	PASADENA, CA
818-598-1700	Woodland Hills, CA
904-353-5757	JACKSONVILLE, FL
909-481-3200	Ontario, CA
913-345-2994	KANSAS CITY, KS
914-448-5700	White Plains, NY
916-536-5500	SACRAMENTO, CA
918-491-0630	Tulsa, OK
919-558-8900	RESEARCH TRIANGLE, NC

BOARDWATCH READER SURVEY

In our February issue, we published a one page fax survey form asking for information about our readers. The results proved interesting in a number of ways.

The basic questions centered on age and sex. The average age of all respondents was **37.88** years with the oldest among respondents at age **68** and the youngest at age **14**. Some **93.62%** were male.

We also asked respondents to indicate a couple of other demographic items including education and annual income. The average income was **\$58,243** per year, and the average education was **15.86** years - just under the standard 12 years of high school and four years of college.

The bulk of the questionnaire probed respondents' online capabilities and habits. Only two categories of modem speed were selected at all with **40.42%** of respondents indicated use of 28.8 kbps modems and **57.74%** indicating a 14.4 kbps capability.

We were interested in the degree of Internet connectivity. Some **88.92%** of respondents were accessible by Internet e-mail. We were surprised to learn that **54.35%** also had SLIP/PPP accounts and a significant number of the "no" respondents indicating they were shopping hard.

This seemed quite high, but we think the type of respondent might lend some indication as to why this is so. These are apparently very active callers, and have been active for some time. The average time "online" was **7 years and eight months** with a surprising number of respondents reporting 15-20 years online. And they indicated that they make an average of **62.69** calls by modem per **WEEK**. We actually did not include one respondent in the average calculation that indicated over a 1000 calls per week along with a handwritten note that they had been disabled in 1980 and pretty much lived for HAM radio and bulletin boards at this point.

As we did suspect, they are not all looking for a free lunch online. They subscribe to an average **2.39** for-fee online services with some sporting accounts on as many as seven services. And spend about **\$73.86** per month to do so with several reporting monthly bills in the \$300-\$400 range.

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY Speak Nicely or We'll Bust Your Net

During the first part of this year, an imbroglio has broken out between the Church of Scientology and virtually everything with a wire hanging out of it. And it appears to be a bit of a battle. Our first awareness of it began with messages about the anonymous remailer in Finland, **anon.petit.fi**, becoming not so anonymous after the Church of Scientology had filed a complaint with Finnish authorities and had obtained the name of a correspondent via warrant from the operator of the system.

In March, the Church of Scientology filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, naming a former Scientology minister, Internet Services Provider Netcom Online Communications Services, and a North Hollywood BBS titled the L.A. Valley College BBS, alleging copyright infringement and trade secret misappropriation.

The story actually starts with the USENET news group **alt.religion.scientology**. This newsgroup features discussions of the Church of Scientology - many of them appearing to contain revelations of various wrongdoings and bullying by the CoS

THIS MONTH'S SURVEY

1. Rank the following online activities from those you do MOST (12) to those you do least (1). Enter a zero next to the activity if you don't do it at all.

- _____ Private Electronic Mail
- _____ Public Message Forums/Discussions
- _____ Participate in Mailing List Discussions
- _____ Download Software Programs from file libraries or FTP sites.
- _____ Real-Time Chat/Live Discussions
- _____ Play Single User Games
- _____ Play Multi-User Games
- _____ Read news services such as newspapers and magazines online
- _____ Look for "information" such as FAQs, product support documentation, text files
- _____ Search online databases
- _____ Online shopping/purchase of books, CD's, etc.
- _____ View/Download Graphic Images
- _____ Surf the Web mindlessly and with no mission
- _____ Financial Information/Stock Quotes

2. When Selecting an Online Service, what aspects do you find most important on a scale of 1 to 10

- _____ Customer Service and Support - Answers questions
- _____ Price/Cost of Access
- _____ Presentation and Ease of Use - Graphical Interface
- _____ Connectivity to the wider world using Internet, Fidonet, other connections.
- _____ News services such as magazines, newspapers, and others in electronic format
- _____ Financial News and Quote Services
- _____ Searchable databases of information
- _____ Shopping services - variety of goods for purchase online
- _____ Sense of community on the service - other people I like and can interact with
- _____ Availability of Forums for my specific interest
- _____ Number of forums/discussion areas on the service itself
- _____ Chat rooms and ease of use of the service to chat.
- _____ Large library of current files and software
- _____ Friendly and helpful sysop.
- _____ Freedom of expression and minimum of rules
- _____ Strong rule structure to minimize extraneous messages and flames
- _____ Games

3. What would you like to see covered more heavily in Boardwatch Magazine - scale of 1 to 10.

- _____ Direct Dial Hobby Bulletin Boards
- _____ Direct Dial Subscription Bulletin Boards/BBS Entrepreneurs
- _____ World Wide Web
- _____ Other Internet Services
- _____ Internet Access Software
- _____ Internet Service Providers
- _____ Commercial Online Services such as Prodigy, CompuServe, etc.
- _____ Legal Issues Online
- _____ Government/Regulation Developments online
- _____ Connecting Bulletin Boards to the Internet
- _____ Building World Wide Web Sites
- _____ Entrepreneurial Opportunities on the Internet
- _____ USEnet News Groups
- _____ Hardware - modems, routers, devices.
- _____ Shareware Programs
- _____ Company news about major players
- _____ FidoNet/BBS Networks
- _____ Electronic Mail
- _____ Hummer/Auto Photos
- _____ Recipes from Dvorak
- _____ Editorial/Opinion columns

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(as it is abbreviated) against anyone who disagrees with them. Dennis Erlich is one of the more vociferous critics of the organization and was a member of the CoS from 1968 through 1982, becoming a minister of some rank and privilege within the organization. After a rift in 1982, he left the organization and became one of its harshest critics.

On February 13th, the CoS obtained a search and seizure warrant from the court based on allegations that Erlich had committed copyright infringement by uploading sections of published and unpublished works of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of CoS. Accompanied by a Glendale police officer, CoS representatives actually performed the search and seizure of Erlich's home, copying all files from his computer and then deleting them from his hard drive, along with notes, papers, etc.

The Church had also requested that Internet access be cutoff by contacting Netcom and the L.A. Valley BBS, where Erlich had an account. Both companies declined to sever Erlich's feed, although they did offer to remove any messages that CoS could prove were indeed copyright infringements. Not good enough. So the CoS has filed suit against Erlich, Netcom, and L.A. Valley BBS.

The case contains some interesting aspects, more in that an organization can use the legal system as a weapon of terror, with very little in the way of law coming into play.

L.A. Valley BBS (818)985-1812 is operated in North Hollywood by Tom Klemesrud. Klemesrud is a 45 year-old video editing technician with a heart condition who operates the BBS as a hobby out of his apartment. It is loosely affiliated with a local community college. It is a 12 line system with a little over 500 subscribers who pay \$18 per year for access to the BBS. The system does send and receive Fidonet mail, Internet e-mail, and about 900 Usenet News Groups - among them **alt.religion.scientology**. It uses a dialup UUCP account with Netcom to send and receive batches of Internet e-mail and newsgroup messages as necessary.

The CoS had originally contacted Klemesrud and threatened him with a lawsuit if he did not deny access to Erlich. Klemesrud offered to remove any specific messages CoS could demonstrate violating copyright from his local system, but noted that USENET news group messages, once posted, went out of his system to the

world rather quickly (typically within a few minutes). He declined to remove Erlich from the system.

CoS then contacted Netcom, to ask them to remove access for L.A. Valley BBS from THEIR system. Netcom likewise declined. And so the CoS has filed a suite against all three: Erlich, Netcom, and Klemesrud, charging copyright infringement and trade secret misappropriation. They are asking for \$100,000 from Erlich, and \$20,000 each from Netcom and L.A. Valley BBS, for each incidence of copyright violation - with an uncoun- ted number of violations alleged.

The nature of the copyright infringement seems to be excerpts quoted in messages illustrating CoS philosophy, and used to buttress various arguments in the Newsgroups. Erlich appears to believe this is "fair use" of the material. Netcom and L.A. Valley BBS don't appear to care one way or another. They simply assert that as carriers, they are not responsible for it.

According to an affidavit filed by Klemesrud, his system carries the equivalent of about 32,000 individual pages of text messages each day. And it is simply not feasible for him to review all or any of it for possible copyright violations. "It's about all I can do to respond to user questions and keep the system running. There's no way I could read all of that," claims Klemesrud.

The basic position of both Netcom and L.A. Valley BBS seems to be that they distribute message traffic in bulk, with no censorship or review privileges in these newsgroups. The CoS is lining up expert witnesses to demonstrate that they can and should. As such, the outcome could prove very illuminating for the online community. But it also demonstrates the vulnerability of these small services to legal action, whether it has a basis or not. The total revenues of L.A. Valley BBS run around \$10,000 per year.

More information on the case is available from the Electronic Frontier Foundation's WWW site at <http://www.eff.org>. ♦

THE BDPA EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION:

Helping BDPA Link Business, Education, and Technology

by Danny A. Everett (deverett@bdpabac.com), Executive Director of the BDPA Education and Technology

Foundation and Raymond W. Suarez, President of Quality Management International

In 1992, the Black Data Processing Associates (BDPA), a national, nonprofit professional association, established a separate, 501 (c) 3 educational organization to fund its educational and technical projects — the BDPA Education and Technology Foundation. The Foundation's focus is solely on obtaining the resources necessary to help BDPA attain national education and technical objectives.

The Foundation's vision, through investment in education and technology, is an informed African American community prepared to lead and leverage the knowledge revolution for the benefit of the community at large. Major challenges facing the Foundation are:

1. Obtaining resources for continuing and enlarging the BDPA National High School Computer Competition (HSCC)
2. Providing Information Technology Training Centers
3. Providing student scholarships

The HSCC provides nearly 500 high school students nationwide with school-to-work transition opportunities. Information Technology Training Centers can serve as an entrance ramp to the Information Superhighway for urban communities. Student scholarships enable opportunities for the many African American young people that have not yet realized their dreams of success as information technology professionals.

With the interest of young people at heart, the Foundation adheres to the immortal words of Frederick Douglass — "The upstart of today is the elite of tomorrow."

The Competition

"A river can't rise beyond its source. What's in the seed determines the fruit," states African American entrepreneur, T. M. Alexander. Over the years, the National BDPA High School Computer Competition has become the premier and most exciting activity at the Annual BDPA Conference. The program was created in 1986 by BDPA member Dr. Jesse Bemley of Joint Educational Facilities, Inc. Dr. Bemley noted the apparent lack of African American students with exposure to computer literacy skills. Observing a growing need to possess basic computer skills for the current job market, Dr. Bemley realized that all individuals

without these skills would be left out of the future job market.

The BDPA High School Computer Competition serves as a vehicle for BDPA to increase the interest of African American youth in information technology and to facilitate, collaboratively with the information technology business community, the emergence of African Americans into industry providing a school-to-work transition. The transition serves as a key component of the United States Education Department's Goals 2000 initiative.

The BDPA High School Computer Competition provides an environment where students have an opportunity to compete with their peers academically. This program allows students the opportunity to utilize their academic and technical skills and to display creativity. Beyond the technical arena, students participating in this program develop self-esteem, self-confidence, leadership skills, and a greater sense of responsibility. BDPA supports participants in the High School Computer Competition program by awarding scholarships to the finalist and semi-finalist team members from the National Computer Competition event.

The Superhighway

Human rights leader, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz (Malcolm X), once said, "We are at the threshold of the nuclear age. Education is a must, especially in this highly technical era." These words are from a visionary who died more than 30 years ago. The IBM PC did not exist then. Apple Corporation did not exist then. Only a vision existed from someone who probably saw a keyboard only as a musical instrument. The developments of the BDPANET, the AfroNet, the USENET, the Internet, the Information Superhighway, etc., completely substantiates this vision.

The threshold is over 30 years old. The BDPA was born within that threshold and can serve as the African American community's ramp to the information superhighway through information technology training centers in urban areas across the United States. An information technology training center can provide training for our young people on how to use information technology as an effective tool for school, while other members of the community can further develop their business skills through career reengineering.

The information superhighway serves as a community-based resource. Only through self-help projects, such as the

BDPA information technology training center currently established in Philadelphia, can African Americans pull together as a community to profit from the rapid changes in information technology.

The Scholars

"Knowledge is better than riches" —
Cameroon Proverb.

Financial scholarships provide aspiring students with more than financial aid. Scholarships help to create and shape the disciplined thinkers of tomorrow. Whether scholarship takes the form of student financial aid, fellowship toward an information technology research endeavor, stipends toward the development of a book on a technical subject matter, or chair endowment of computer science/engineering and computer information systems departments at historically black colleges and universities (HBCU), scholarship enriches the industry and our community with diverse intellectual viewpoints. Greater than the wealth acquired through the practice of the information technology trade is the knowledge attained to enhance the standard of living of the community at large. Thus, scholarships provide an effective means for the African American community to gain knowledge.

Historically Speaking

Citing the great African American educator and founder of the Tuskegee Institute, Booker T. Washington, "At the bottom of education, at the bottom of politics, even at the bottom of religion, there must be ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE."

Without a sound economic foundation, the hopes and aspirations of many African American young people will be crushed. Another generation of young people will find themselves misguided and confronting an unforgiving future of lost opportunities, similar to that of post-Emancipation era ex-slaves in America. Their plight was one in which freedom was provided in 1863 and many of them continued to work the lands as they did during slavery. Although many of them realized that greater opportunities lay ahead of them in their future as business people, teachers, brick masons, and other opportunities, most of these survivors never realized that the Civil War was fought over moving wealth from an agricultural age dominated by Southern aristocracy to that of the newer

industrial age of Northern dominance.

As the socioeconomic and political conditions worsened in the agricultural South, many of the ex-slaves sought economic refuge in the Northern industrial cities, only to find service related jobs that never provided the opportunity to work in factories as tradespeople.

Opportunities in the industrial age never materialized for African Americans until the late 1960s when protest against Jim Crow laws and de facto segregation became the only way to open doors to move forward. During those years, African Americans gained many hard fought rights including opportunities to work as tradespeople. Many people left the familiar agricultural work of the South and came North for the many industrial jobs. However, African Americans have failed to realize, once again, that during the 1950s, America moved into the information or nuclear age. Over 40 years later, the prevailing view in the African American community is that the familiar industrial jobs will be available for young people as they graduate from high school. Entering the information age, African Americans must catch up to the opportunities that abound.

Current Needs

In 1991, U.S. companies for the first time spent more on computing and communications equipment than on industrial, mining, farm and construction machinery, marking the passage of the nation from an industrial to an information economy. By 1992, information related jobs occupied two-thirds of all U.S. workers, and eight out of ten new jobs created in the U.S. were in information intensive sectors of the economy. By 2003, employment in the computer service sector is projected to double, generating over 700,000 new jobs.

Increasingly reliant on information management processes, the Hudson Institute's Workforce 2000 projects the U.S. economy will require a skilled non-white labor force to remain competitive. However, African Americans historically concentrated in agricultural, personal service and blue collar occupations are now disproportionately displaced in a rapidly advancing information age economy.

African Americans suffered a poverty rate in 1992 of 33%, and an unemployment rate in 1993 of 12.6%, compared to 6.6% nationally. African Americans alone experienced net job losses during

the recent recession. To remain competitive, the Hudson Institute predicts America must improve productivity, dynamism, education and skills in its aging populace, and fully include African Americans into its workforce.

Economic and social integration in the U.S. is increasingly a function of telecommunications access and computer literacy. Urban unemployment, underemployment, and lack of technological access and training, however, contribute to information technology deficits in urban communities. According to the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology, for example, only 5.8% of the 675,000 computer systems analysts and scientists employed in 1990 were African American.

African American youth embody the future of urban communities and the nation. Deliberate intervention in the form of computer education and training along with scholarships will prepare African American youth for the skilled occupations of the present and future. For example, in 1992 only 16.8% of African American students used computers at school, compared with 38.5% of white students.

In 1989, white high school students were three times more likely than African American students to use computers at home, and nearly four times more likely to use computers at home for schoolwork. Not surprisingly, students in higher income families are also found more likely to use computers at home, and for schoolwork, than students from lower income families.

Public education systems lack the resources to meet the technical training needs of African American youth. Chronic disparities between African American and white students in accessing and using computer technology now, present foreboding witness to the future contributions of African American youth to their families, communities, and the nation in the global information economy of the year 2000.

The BDPA Education and Technology Foundation, through funding of the Black Data Processing Associates, serves to provide a direct impact upon the future of African American youth.

BDPA Education and Technology Foundation, 1250 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest Washington, D.C. 20036; 800-727-BDPA (2372); (202)775-4301; E-mail://foundation@bdpabac.com



WEBWATCH

VIRTUAL VINEYARD

by Jack Rickard

Much of the current excitement about the Internet is rooted in its trendiness. Internet is very much "in" fashion. The production, distribution, purchase, discussion, and consumption of wine is almost entirely based on trendiness and fashion. The coupling of the two should actually be sufficient to gag everyone on the planet who isn't "in" and doesn't want "in."

But we found that it doesn't entirely. Rather, Peter Granoff, a wine guy in Los Altos California, has probably constructed the most elegantly designed and useable example of an online shopping service we've found anywhere. The **Virtual Vineyards** is a pleasure to use in all respects, alarmingly informative, and very easy to order wine from. It makes it a pleasure to buy, even if you intend to use the wine to water plants.

Peter Granoff is recognized as one of the leading wine experts in the United States. Peter was the thirteenth American to be admitted to the British Court of Master Sommeliers and currently serves as an Examiner and Board of Directors member for the Court's American Chapter. In 1992 he received the James Beard Foundation Sommelier of the Year Award, and until early 1995, was the Sommelier and Wine Director for San Francisco's highly regarded Square One restaurant. Peter continues to teach consumer wine classes at Square One, is a staff lecturer for the Sterling Vineyards School of Service and Hospitality and makes frequent appearances as a speaker, panelist and teacher in a variety of consumer and wine industry settings.

Despite all of this, he is really pretty much down to earth - note his e-mail address: **corkdork@virtualvin.com**. Yes, on the service he is the Cork Dork and answers questions about wines, wineries, and food/wine pairings quite willingly. "Virtual Vineyards offers the wines I've selected to be best of breed," explained Mr. Granoff. "I share with customers my experiences with each wine. I answer their wine-related questions and post the most useful questions and answers for all to see. I'm

their personal wine steward—I give them the sort of attention they'd expect from a sommelier in a fine restaurant—so they can buy the best wine for that special dinner. With my guidance, they learn about the delights of fine wine, discover their own wine pref-



Peter Granoff

erences and ultimately get more for their fine-wine dollar. Wine advice on this level is

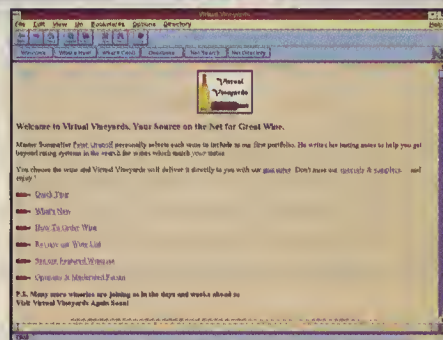
usually only available to the patrons of a few exclusive wine shops in big cities, but the Internet now lets me offer it to people around the world."

The service opened and shipped their first bottle on January 26th. They currently sport only products from 18 wineries, not all extremely well known. We think a service like this will thrive by offering the widest possible selection - not by being selective in what's offered. Robert Mondavi wasn't among them if that tells you where our plebeian tastes lie.

But we still enjoyed this service immensely. First, they feature a tasting chart for every wine from every winery listed. This is almost techie with little sliding indicators to point out intensity, dryness, body, acidity, tanning, oak flavors, and complexity. It almost looks like it was designed to appeal to engineers. By design or not, it does.

Each wine and each winery also features a little graphic JPG image of the label, and a writeup by the Cork Dork. Best of all, each has a "remember this wine" button you can click to order later. More on this in a bit - it's a marvelous feature.

The service also offers other information such as a glossary of terms, selected items from the monthly print magazine *Wine and Spirits*, and a series of utterly fascinating recipes for meals that various vintners recommend with various wines. The service is informative and fun to read.



- VIRTUAL VINEYARD
- BABB'S BOOKMARKS
- WEB SITES
- PUBLISHING ON THE WEB, PART 4

But it is in the ordering process that this service wins. You can fill out an online order form. When you access this area, you will find every wine you "remembered" already listed, with price, and a little "quantity" box that allows you to enter how many bottles. The default is zero bottles - no cheap stunts to try to lead you to a bigger dollar order. They offer a 10% discount on cases, which can be mixed, and 2nd day air or ground shipping.

One of the things I just loved about this is that instead of making a federal case out of the fact that you want the wine shipped to a different mailing address than is on your credit card, they make it a feature. You can not only ship it to a different address, you can include a CARD and you can enter a message electronically to APPEAR on the card. Then you enter your credit card info, and the address on the credit card for verification supposedly.

Virtual Vineyards has partnered with Netscape Communications Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank to enable customers to make secure credit card payments easily over the Internet. Virtual Vineyards' use of the Netscape Commerce Server lets users of Netscape Navigator and other Secure Sockets Layer-enabled browsers establish a secured connection for sending payment information. Users of other browsers can currently buy wine from Virtual Vineyards by imparting their credit card information via a toll free phone number. Virtual Vineyards is incorporating CyberCash Inc.'s Secure Internet Payment Service to provide for browser independent secure payment transactions.

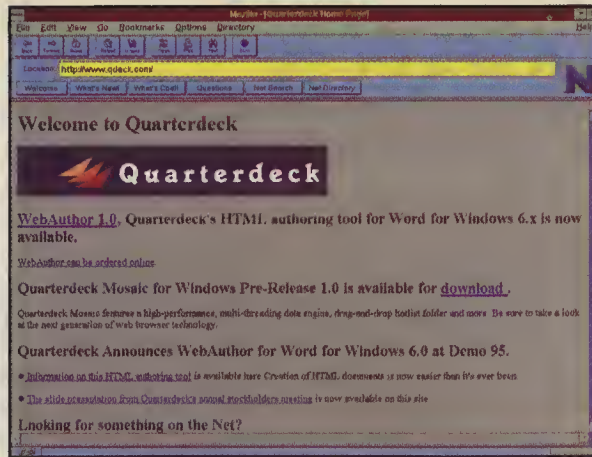
The result is a very well thought-out ordering scenario that makes it easy to find a wine to experiment with, order it, and receive it. Better, if you like it, you can send a bottle to a friend as a gift with a card - all electronically. We just didn't find a single irritating grubby little dive for the last quarter in the carpet on the whole system. And we will blindly predict that this will be one of the most successful online "store fronts" on the Internet this year. Virtual Vineyards, (415)941-3816 voice; (415)941-3728 fax; Email: corkdork@virtualvin.com; World Wide Web: <http://www.virtualvin.com>

FIRST WWW SITE FOR "FUTURES PROFESSIONALS" LAUNCHED

A World Wide Web site billed as the first online service for futures industry professionals is now up and running on the Internet at <http://inorfg.com>. All 68 futures exchanges around the world and more than 2,500 Commodity Trading Advisors (CTAs) around the world have been invited to join the Investment News Online (I-no) service. Contact: Investment News Online, 410-867-7490; Internet Address: <http://inorfg.com>.

QUARTERDECK SENDS GERMAN, FRENCH BASIC BROWSERS TO BETA

The English version of the **Quarterdeck Basic Browser** for the Internet has been in beta for a few weeks now; German and French versions are right behind them, with an announcement at CeBit. They also have a Quarterdeck Mosaic available for download on their Web site and an announcement about their new **WebAuthor** program at \$99



until May 31. WebAuthor allows you to use Microsoft Word 6.0 to edit HTML documents easily. Contact: QUARTERDECK CORP. (Santa Monica, CA) (310)392-9851 and ask for the customer service department. For Internet users the Web page is located at <http://www.qdeck.com> or you can e-mail them at support@qdeck.com.

FOR ALL OF US WITH A FEDERAL BACKACHE

Get Government Off Our Back is a non-partisan coalition of groups and individuals dedicated to down-sizing government and rolling back the bloated U.S. bureaucracy. They have established a Web site at this address: <http://www.infi.net/~redtape>.

A URL GRABBER FOR WINDOWS

Howard Harawitz, Brooklyn North Software Works, has just released a new software package called **URL Grabber** that will surely make it easier to store URLs you see listed in an e-mail message — up to now the best method was to hand copy the URL to a notepad and insert the URL into your browser at another time. URL Grabber is a small floating tool bar that resides in a corner of your MS Windows desktop. It enables you to easily "grab" and store URLs from news groups, e-mail messages and other sources, "on the fly", as you are reading them. With a 'click' of a mouse, URL Grabber will automatically convert your collection of URLs to active WWW links on an HTML page. With another mouse click, URL Grabber will bring up your favorite browser displaying your collected links so you can view Web pages, download files and otherwise obtain information from the WWW almost instantly. A working demo version is available for download at: <ftp://ftp.cs.dal.ca/htmlasst/>. Check the **readme.1st** file to see what files you need. Contact Harawitz at harawitz@brooknorth.bedford.ns.ca.

REGISTRATIONS BLITZING COMDEX WEB

The Interface Group says that prospective attendees registering for its Comdex shows are blitzing the company's Internet World Wide Web site to the tune of more than 1,000 registration forms per week. Peter Shaw, vice president of marketing for The Interface Group, called the registrations "an outstanding response." He said the number of registra-

tions being taken are probably approaching 1,500 per week by now, and in the past 30 days the site has seen 70,000 log-ons. That compares to Comdex/Fall 1994 when Shaw said the Web page received 70,000 hits in an eight to ten week period. "And not only are we getting good access, but we're getting a good conversion rate as well," he said. The Web site, located at <http://www.comdex.com:8000>, contains what the company calls, a short interactive registration form, full information on the conference schedules and programs and travel accommodations to Atlanta, which give specific prices on car rentals in Atlanta along with hotel prices for the show.

ORACLE DISTRIBUTES DATABASE SOFTWARE VIA WORLD WIDE WEB

Oracle, one of the dominant companies in corporate database software, has decided to offer some of their mainline database software programs via Internet for evaluation at no charge. Notably, **Personal Oracle 7** is a \$399 scaled-down version of the corporate relational database engine. **Oracle Workgroup Server** is available for Windows NT or Novell Network. You can obtain the program via World Wide Web at <http://www.oracle.com>. The server will ask for your name, organization, address, and how you think you might use the program. The company thinks that with this information, and given the very large size of the program files, unauthorized copying will be a very limited problem, and that it will introduce their products to a number of new potential users. The Workgroup Server version for Netware is over 40 MB in size. A number of companies are watching this Internet distribution experiment with interest. Oracle Corporation World Headquarters, 500 Oracle Parkway, Redwood Shores, CA 94065; (415)506-7000 voice; (415)506-7200 fax.

O'REILLY TO RELEASE \$499 WEB SERVER FOR WINDOWS NT

O'Reilly and Associates made a name for themselves by publishing techie books primarily for the UNIX market. These were marvelous little books with all the good stuff in them but sold to less than mass-market audiences. The UNIX programming connection rather led them to stumble into the Internet publishing connec-

tion very early. In fact, Ed Kroll's **Whole Earth Internet** was probably the first "hit" seller in the Internet book category.

Recently, the company has been branching out into software for the Net. Their latest is a very interesting product to us - a web server that operates under Windows NT - titled **WebSite**. The product is described as a cooperation with Bob Denny of Pasadena and Enterprise Integration Technologies of Menlo Park. It's priced at \$499 and scheduled for a May release. The product is a 32-bit application designed for Windows NT 3.5 and Windows95. Further, it allows you to write CGI scripts in Visual Basic. WebSite is positioned as a low-cost alternative to running a web server from UNIX. You can see it in action at <http://clubweb.ora.com>. More details in a coming Boardwatch...O'Reilly & Associates, 103A Morris St., Sebastopol, CA 95472; (707)829-0515 voice; (707)829-0104 fax; website@ora.com; <http://www.ora.com>

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES - NO LONGER FLYING WITHOUT A NET



The airline industry has gone beyond shrilly competitive to the point of just being shrill. And many of our larger airlines have failed as a result. Starting in 1971 with three airplanes serving Dallas, Houston,

and San Antonio Texas, Southwest Airlines has actually grown to some 200 planes serving 45 cities. They sport 1850 flights daily and move some 40 million passengers per year. In 1994, they actually earned some \$179.3 million on some \$2.5 billion in revenues.

Headed by Herb Kelleher, the company has been, if nothing else, innovative. They sport no assigned seats, virtually no amenities, but regularly offer highly publicized \$39 and \$49 flights between some cities. They have pioneered "ticketless" flights.

Most recently, they were one of the few airlines to continue to offer travel agents 10% commissions on ticket sales. But they are clearly looking for ways to market more effectively. They recently did join the SABRE online reservation system, and in March they introduced a fairly impressive World Wide Web site at <http://www.iflyswa.com> titled the **Southwest Airlines Home Gate**.

Flight	Carrier	Class	Days	Time	From	To	Freq
101	WN	Y	1	7:00	PHX	MDW	1
102	WN	Y	2	7:00	PHX	MDW	2
103	WN	Y	3	7:00	PHX	MDW	3
104	WN	Y	4	7:00	PHX	MDW	4
105	WN	Y	5	7:00	PHX	MDW	5
106	WN	Y	6	7:00	PHX	MDW	6
107	WN	Y	7	7:00	PHX	MDW	7
108	WN	Y	8	7:00	PHX	MDW	8
109	WN	Y	9	7:00	PHX	MDW	9
110	WN	Y	10	7:00	PHX	MDW	10

The service includes one of the easiest to use plane schedule systems we've seen online. You simply select a departure city from a pick list, a destination city from a second pick list, and a date range from a third pick list. The system instantly produces a list of flight times complete with flight numbers. A button allows you to call up fares as well. In keeping with airline online tradition, you can't really tell what fares are available for what flights, and you still have to call the voice reservation line to make a reservation or purchase a ticket, but it's a step in the right direction. We think this company has some potential to actually allow flyers to tell what flights are available and at what price on some glorious day in the future.

The service also provides a wealth



of other information we found useful. Notably, they sport a fact sheet on each of the 45 cities and 45 airports they provide service to. These sheets list parking charges, rental car agencies IN the air-

port and rental car agencies OUTSIDE of the airport, telephone numbers for paging, security, gates, etc. They even list distances in miles to notable local landmarks.

The system also provides information on the company - press releases for the past several months, the shareholders' annual report, financial information, etc. They even have a library of photographs of various Southwest Airlines aircraft that you can view online. There are job opportunities listed with the company.

The tone of the system is very light, and clearly they don't take themselves too seriously to bear, as most of these companies do. Southwest Airlines Co., PO Box 3661, Love Field, Dallas, TX 75235-1611; (214)904-4000.

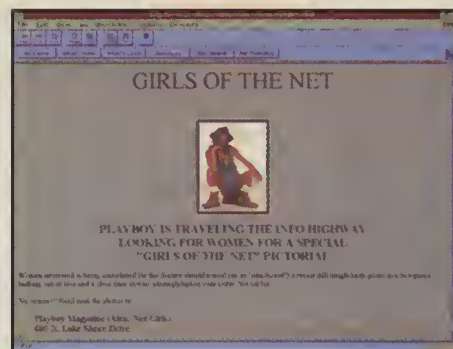
PLAYBOY AND PENTHOUSE BARE ALL ON THE WEB

The publishing world, strangely resistant to online communications for many years, has siezed on the World Wide Web as the way to go online. The fonts and graphics made possible by



Mosaic type browsers have allowed publishers to present information in a visual fashion sufficiently rich to make sense in the publishing world.

One of the more persistently popular online activities is the viewing of fuzzy photographs of youngish women unfettered by the valiant efforts of the Garment Workers of America. This is causing some concern among the perennially concerned, who are in this case concerned that adolescents might gain access to these images.



The two leading publishers of magazines sporting barren and undespoiled buff misses are *Playboy* magazine and *Penthouse* magazine. From what we can tell, they bring a much higher grade of smut online, with better photography and more alluring models.

Playboy has inaugurated a WWW site at <http://www.playboy.com>. The service sports the cover of the latest issue and a few photos of the bovine beauty of the month. We found it a bit interesting that they are planning a Girls of the Net pictorial in a future issue and are encouraging aspiring Internautettes to forthwith tender a scanned image of their unadorned carcasses via e-mail to photo@playboy.com (Attn: Net Girls).

Beyond that, we found the offering very much of the "sampler" nature and a very conscious effort not to "give away the store" on this service. You can of course subscribe to the print magazine, and there is a good bit of information on preserving our precious First Amendment rights to pass around dirty photos available on the service.

Penthouse has taken a bit more aggressive stance with their service at <http://www.penthousemag.com>. For one thing, the images are a bit brighter and clearer for no particular artistic reason. They use slightly larger JPEG images of about 45 KB and some pretty good scanning technique. We found their *Penthouse* model from the last two issues with a fairly innocent head shot followed by a series of 8 or 10 "Pentachrome" miniatures beneath them that looked very convincingly like a 35 mm mounted slide. When you click on

the slide, they actually download the full 45 KB image in a fairly impressive screen size. The result is a bevy of photos that all in all are pretty well done, from what we know of the art of pubic publishing.

The *Playboy* system is actually very easy to access and operates quickly. The *Penthouse* system is almost unusable. Delays can run on into multiple minutes even with a fairly high-speed link. We rather got the impression that it wasn't so much a difference in systems and hardware, as the demand load on the *Penthouse* system was simply larger. In either case, the systems promise to be among the more popular stops on the Internet. ♦

BABB'S BOOKMARKS

by Chris Babb

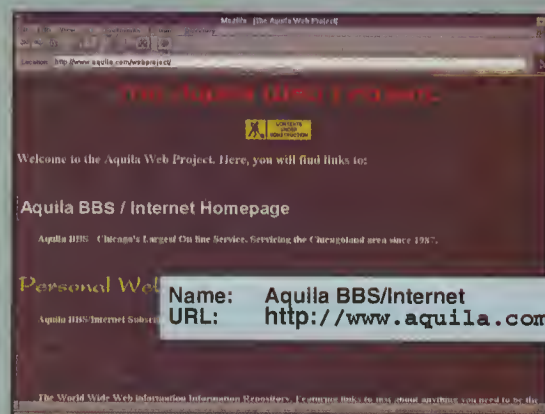
I've been looking at way too many Web pages. All I seem to say is 'Netscape this and Netscape that'. My butt is becoming contoured to the shape of my chair, and I am pretty sure I'm getting weboriods from sitting here too long, browsing through the endless stream of entertainment on the Web. Now that I have a fast ISDN connection to the Internet, there is no limit to my appetite for even bigger and more ghastly mpeg's, au's, wav's and gif's.

We have all been talking and reading about some of the great Web sites available for our viewing pleasure. The NASA pages, software and hardware vendors pages, e-zines and all of the other excellent information available that helps to make the Web an enticing and exciting place to be. What seems to be overlooked in this mad dash to talk and write about the Web and it's wonders, are the personal pages. It is the personal Web pages, created by people like you and I, that provide the links to the creative and comic genius that gives the Internet its character. The personal pages are where you can find information you didn't think existed or ever really wanted. Links to related information or to unrelated dribble, sarcasm and wit, personal likes and dislikes, taste and tastelessness. The personal Web pages are my favorite place to jump off into a butt numbing, mouse clicking, bit spitting Web frenzy.

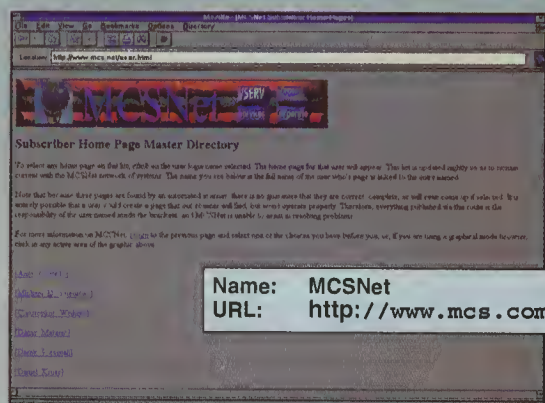
So where do you find the jewels of the Web? I usually find them in the signatures of newsgroup messages or in the **comp.infosystems.www.*** newsgroups. You can also find them by using Lycros, Webcrawler or any of the other search page tools out there. The Netscape newsreader gives you the ability to just click on a listed URL and you're there. If you're using another newsreader, the Windows clipboard is a handy place to copy the address to and from there, just paste it into your browser. At the rate that Internet related programs are coming out, I'm sure that something better will be available by the time this issue hits the newsstands. Hint hint, nudge nudge WinVN and Free Agent..

Another great place to find personal Web pages is on Internet Service Provider homepages. Aquila BBS/Internet, MCSNet, Interaccess, Xmission and several others all offer a place for their subscribers to put their own Web pages either as part of their subscription or at a nominal fee.

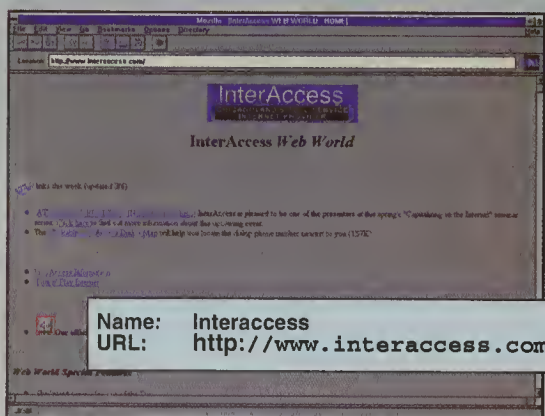
BABB'S BOOKMARKS — MAY 95 Personal Web Site Providers



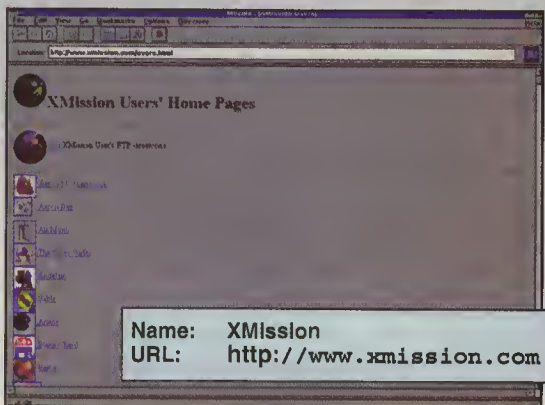
Name: Aquila BBS/Internet
URL: <http://www.aquila.com>



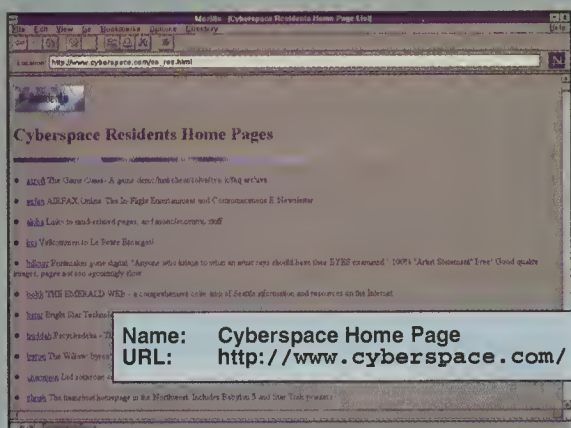
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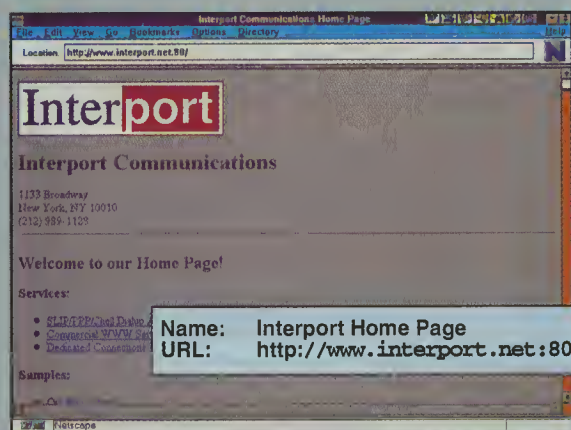
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URL: <http://www.interaccess.com>



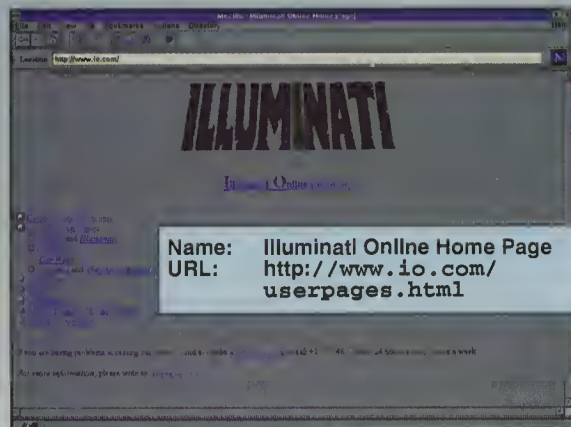
Name: XMission
URL: <http://www.xmission.com>



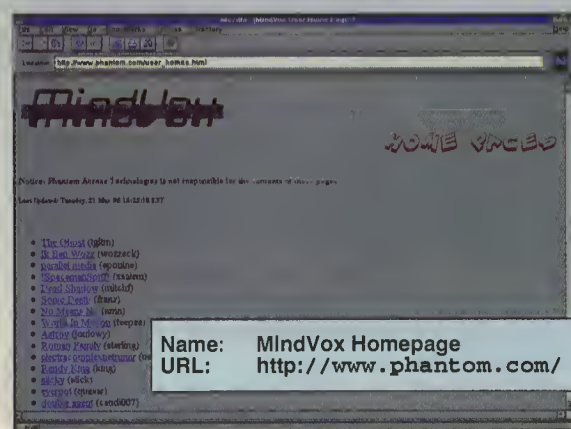
Name: Cyberspace Home Page
URL: <http://www.cyberspace.com/>



Name: Interport Home Page
URL: <http://www.interport.net:80>



Name: Illuminati Online Home Page
URL: <http://www.io.com/userpages.html>



Name: MindVox Homepage
URL: <http://www.phantom.com/>

Now, I have to warn you. Some of the personal Web pages are just basic information. Maybe just a single picture and a few lines describing the person. But some are lavish with lots of pictures, lots of text, lots of links and lots of interesting things to fool with. They are almost always under construction and seem to come and go like the wind. Some of them are also on very slow servers, so you may have to wait a bit while loading the page. Nonetheless, they are the most interesting and entertaining part of the Web.

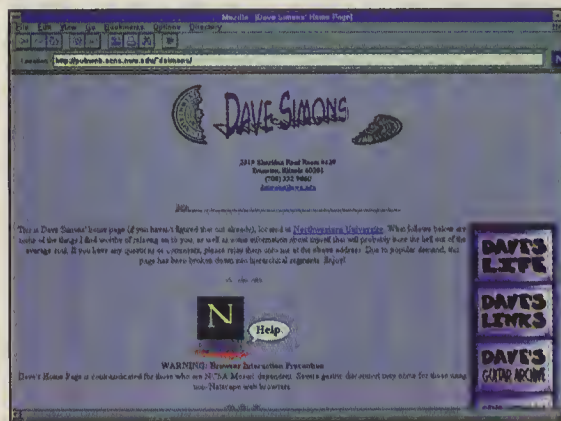
I have to recommend personal Web pages to anyone who enjoys browsing the Web. They will surprise and maybe even offend you, and they will provide hours of pure browsing satisfaction.

Descriptions:

These are only a select few of the Internet Service Providers who are currently providing space for personal homepages. It would be totally impossible to go into detail on all of the personal Web pages listed with these guys. There are way too many. If you're looking for ideas on building your own homepage, these are great places to start. The creativity and imagination just spews from these sites! For days and nights of Web browsing fun, load these URL's up and go bonkers.

PERSONAL WEB PAGES

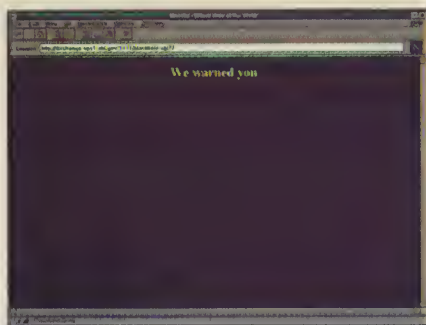
Not the best, certainly not the worst, but just a sampling of what there is to offer.



Page Name: Dave Simon's Homepage
URL: <http://pubweb.acns.nwu.edu/~dsimons/>

Description:

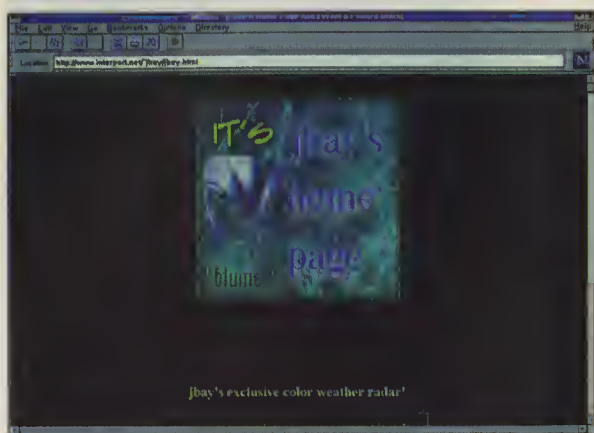
Dave's page is a fine example of a personal Web page. This page is using some of the new features (well, new during the writing of this article) of Netscape and Dave proudly proclaims its superiority over NCSA's Mosaic to the point of making it into "The Enhanced Netscape Hall of Shame." Some of the other features of this page are Dave's bio, which almost every personal page has, Dave's Guitar archive, where he has taken most every song he knows and has provided the words and associated guitar chords for each of them, Dave's links, separated into funny and useful categories, information on Northwestern University and "Dave's Automatic Problem Solver." I had to laugh when I saw this one. You'll laugh, too.



Page Name: Black Hole Of The Web
URL: <http://www.raven.na.com/blackhole.html>

Description:
 This page has no real value other than it is interesting

and quite different. It is billed as the first and only "Black Hole" on the Web and without question, lives up to its name. This page uses the "push" features of Netscape and is good example of creativity.



Page Name: I See A Home Page And I Want It Painted Black
URL: <http://www.interport.net/~jbay/jbay.html>

Description:
 I'm starting to sound like a broken record here with Netscape, Netscape, Netscape. But to get the full effect of this page, use it. This page has some very nice graphics and good content. There is a link to a color weather radar site that I had not seen before, that I thought was pretty darn nice. There are also links to "The cult of the sacred bean" coffee Web pages that will keep caffeine addicts like myself jittery and busy, the seemingly customary "Stop Senate Bill 314" petition link, Jbay's hot list and an interesting little link at the bottom of the page that will test the limits of your history list. All in all, a fine example of a personal page.



Name: Captain Sarcastic's WebSite
URL: <http://nyx10.cs.du.edu:8001/~kkoller/>

Description:
 My kind of page, sarcastic and mildly insulting, I loved it. If you're not using Netscape, you'll need to. This page and associated pages take great advantage of enhanced background and table functions of the HTML 3.0 standards. The first thing you'll notice about this page is the "Grid of Spew." From here you are whisked to collections of witty stories and sarcastic blurbs. There are also links to Captain Sarcastic's 'Portraits of Sinners', an unofficial Nine Inch Nails page, which claims one hit every 25 seconds, the University Of Delaware, a reciprocal place, which contains links to other sites that have links to Captain Sarcastic's page and, of course, Captain Sarcastic's hot list.

Name: The Babbman Homepage
URL: <http://www.aquila.com/chris.babb/>

Description:
 You didn't think that you'd get away without me mentioning something about MY personal homepage now did you? This is a different page than ChrisPix and Babb's Bookmarks. This is where you can go to find out more about me, my kitties, my friends, my hobbies and a few other interesting things I have found on the Web that are not appropriate for either of my other pages. Tell me what you think. Did I mention that you should use Netscape to view it?



If you don't feel like typing in the addresses listed above, you can always come to my homepage and jump to them from there. I have many more sites than I have room here to list along with all of my previous articles for Boardwatch, and a whole pile of interesting sites I have found during my 'Webulism' episodes. Always a treat, always something new or something. Links to these and other Babb's Bookmarks are available at the Aquila BBS/Internet WWW server at:

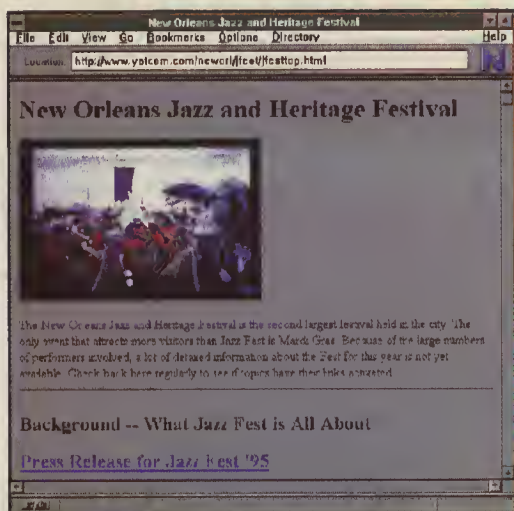
<http://www.aquila.com/Babbs/>

Also visit the Aquila BBS/Internet Homepage at:

<http://www.aquila.com/>

If you have any cool sites, you would like to see here or any comments feel free to e-mail me at chris.babb@aquila.com

Happy surfing! ♦



WEB SITES

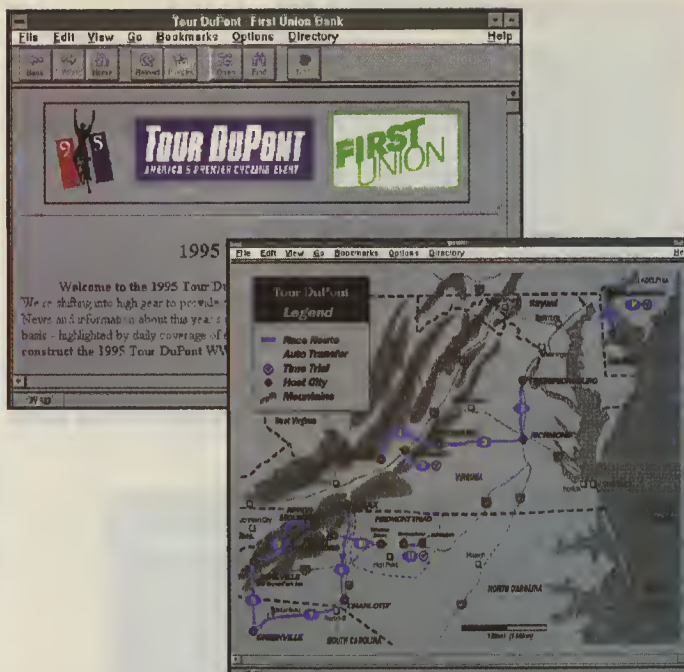
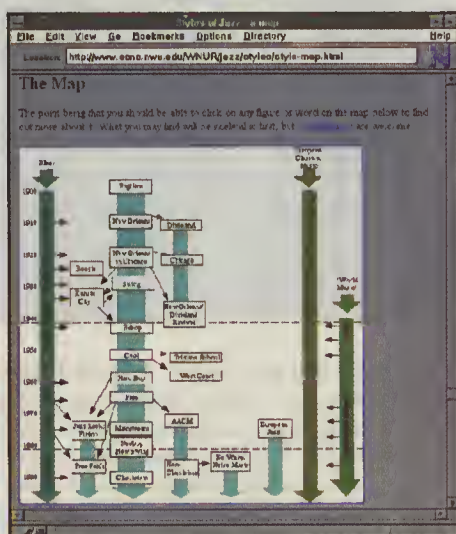
by Walt Howe and Hope Tillman

This month we include web sites for several timely events that should occur about the time the magazine appears. The first site is the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, that takes place from April 28 through May 7, home page. Some say that this even outpulls Mardi Gras in the number of visitors to New Orleans. Look for it at this URL:

<http://www.yatcom.com/neworl/jfest/jfesttop.html>

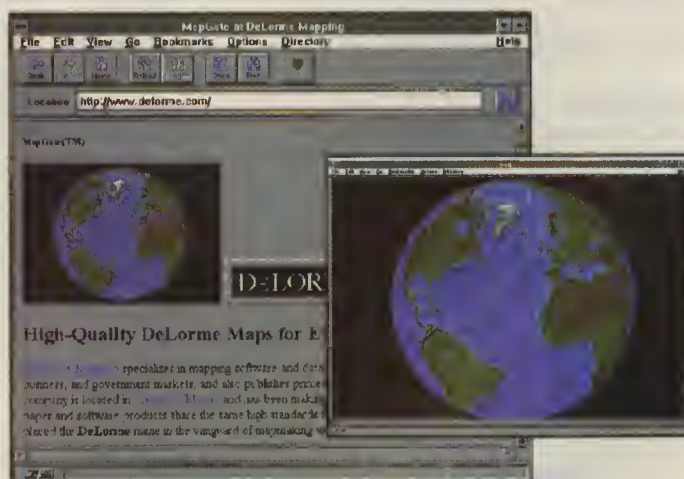
While we were looking at jazz resources on the net, we ran into this wonderful work in progress. It is a map that shows the historical development of various styles in jazz. Click on the style that interests you and call up a list of musicians that represented the period and a discography of their music. Joe Germisska at NorthWestern University is putting this together, and if you have information to fill in some of the gaps that now exist, he will welcome the support. Look for Styles of Jazz Map at this URL:

<http://www.acns.nwu.edu/WNUR/jazz/styles/style-map.html>



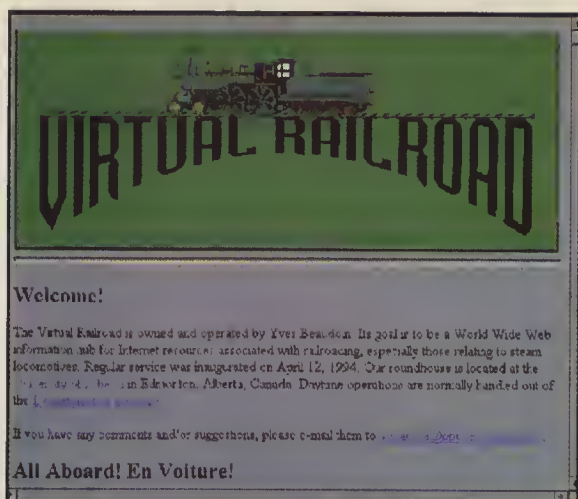
Our next selection is the timely Tour DuPont Web site for the bicycle race through five states that occurs from April 26 to May 7. The race covers 1,130 miles, and the riders compete for a quarter million dollars in prizes. The web site will provide maps, frequent updates and background on the race. Look for it at this URL:

<http://www.access.digex.net/~dforrest/tourhome.html>



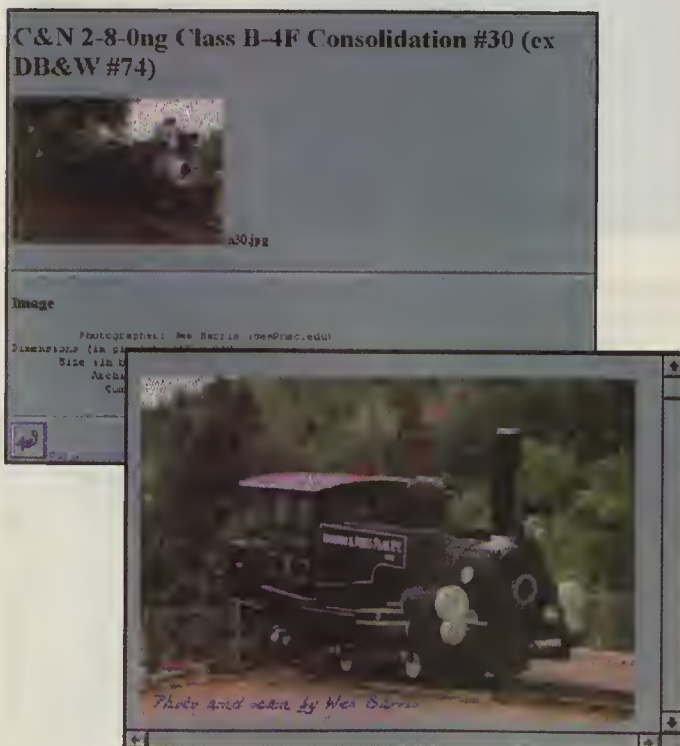
Speaking of maps, there is a very impressive relief picture of the globe at the DeLorme Mapping web site. This is a picture of the actual 20 foot outdoor globe at Babson College for which DeLorme recently developed a new skin. The actual globe on the Babson campus in Wellesley, Massachusetts is worth a trip to see, but if you can't get there, this picture, which fills a 1024x760 computer screen, is a reasonable substitute. In the picture, the darker the blue, the deeper the oceans, and it shows the oceans' contours as well as the land's. Visit DeLorme's Map Gate. learn about their products and view the globe at this URL:

<http://www.delorme.com>



For another picture feast, particularly for nostalgia buffs, there is a wealth of information and photos on railroads, particularly steam engines, that can be accessed through the wonderful Virtual Railroad Web site. If you ever rode the steam trains, played Rail Baron or Railroad Tycoon, built model railroads, or just have a sense of wonder about the iron horses that helped build the country, visit this site and take in some the riches it points to:

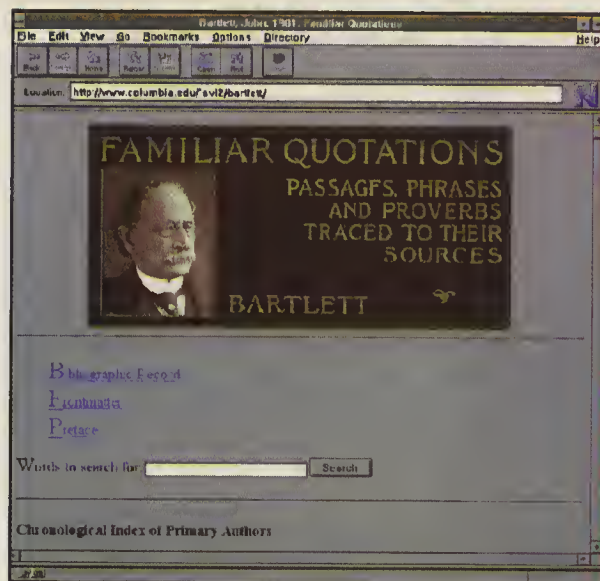
<http://gpu.srv.ualberta.ca/~ybeaudoi/home.htm>



Among the riches this site points to are the List of Surviving Steam Locomotives in the United States and Canada and Wes Berris' Colorado Steam collection from which the pictures here are taken. We show a Colorado and Northern 2-8-0 and a Manitou and Pikes Peak 0-4-2 cog locomotive. It is built so that the boiler is level, for the engine sits on an incline.

As a final touch, we just discovered a new Bartlett's Dictionary of Quotations Web site. It isn't particularly colorful, but it is a good resource to draw on:

<http://www.columbia.edu/~svl2/bartlett/>



Don't expect to find quotations from Tom Clancy or Peter Drucker or Lance Rose or even Jack Rickard in this version of Bartlett's. This is an older version, but it treats the classics well. We tried a search for **board** and **watch** and this is all it could come up with. We'll leave it up to the reader to decide how significant this text is:

William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.

line 66: The selfsame way, with more advised **watch**,
line 108: Ships are but **boards**, sailors but men: there be land-rats and water-rats, water-thieves and land-thieves.

*Hope Tillman and Walt Howe are a married couple who met in cyberspace and still enjoy spending time there together. Hope is Director of Libraries at Babson College, a Director of the Special Libraries Association, and an Internet author and consultant. She is the co-author of the book Internet and Special Librarians. Hope's Babson College gopher is well known for its Internet Business Resources menu. Point your gopher or browser to URL **gopher://gopher.babson.edu**. She also maintains a comprehensive Internet Bibliography for Internet users. You can reach Hope at email address **tillman@babson.edu**.*

Walt is DELPHI Internet Services' Internet SIG Manager. See the Delphi column for more information about Walt. ♦



PUBLISHING ON THE WEB, PART FOUR

by Michael Erwin

So far, we have been writing "Static" HTML documents that are just being sent to browsers. This month we are going to start working with Forms and CGI: Common Gateway Interface. Boy that's a mouthful isn't it? To really take advantage of what a WWW/HTTP server can do, you will need to start using CGI or Gateway Scripts. These Gateway Scripts will give you flexibility to do some extremely complex HTML documents that you could not do any other way.

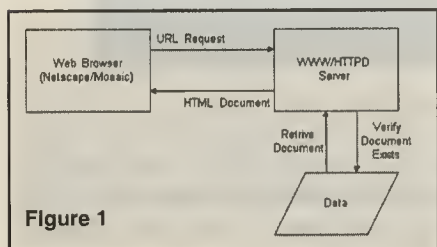


Figure 1

Most people have seen the results of CGI, but may not be aware how "Static" HTML documents differ from "Interactive" HTML documents. Figure 1 shows how most "Static" documents are served

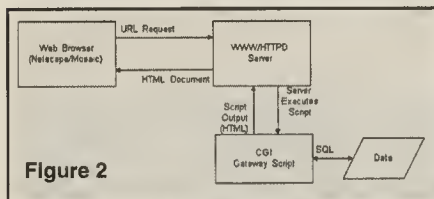


Figure 2

by the HTTP server. Notice that the browser requests a URL from the HTTP server. The server looks to see if that document exists; if it does exist the server sends the document to the browser.

"Interactive" HTML documents are built to fulfill specific request from the browser. Figure 2 shows that the browser sends data to the HTTP server. That data can be just about anything from a WAIS data search to maybe a stock quote request. The HTTP server looks at the data the browser sent to it and runs the appropriate script or program. The script or program processes the request with the supplied information, generates an HTML document and passes the completed HTML document back to the HTTP server. The

HTTP server then sends that finished document back to the browser. Most "Interactive" CGI HTML documents have user input options of some sort. Which might include buttons, radio buttons, check boxes, selections and/or text fields. To see almost all of these look at URL: <http://akebono.stanford.edu/yahoo/search.html> (See Figure 3).

Here lies the problem... Programming! If you are using a commercial WWW provider, they may or may not allow CGI programs or gateway scripts on their WWW/HTTP server. Why? Because these scripts run on their system. This is a major security concern. Now if you have your own WWW/HTTP server, you can use just about any programming language you like. If you are using a UNIX platform Web server you can use the shell languages, C, C++ or my favorite PERL. If your Web server is on Windows, you can use Visual Basic. Macintosh HTTP users can use Applescript. As servers change, these languages may change also.

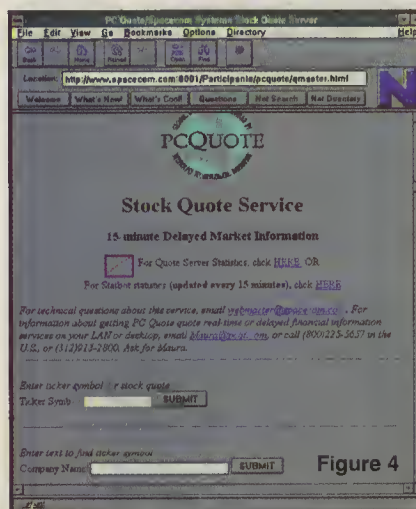


Figure 4

So to start with we will look at some simple processing with other sites. Lets look at URL: <http://www.spacecom.com:8001/Participants/pcquote/qmaster.html> (See Figure 4) Here PC Quote allows you to receive a 15 minute delayed stock quote. Look at the actual HTML of this page in Listing 1. By the way, you might

notice some tags we have not covered, these tags are specific to Netscape. We will cover them in future issues.

LISTING 1

```

<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>PC QUOTE/SPACECOM SYSTEMS STOCK QUOTE SERV-
ER</TITLE>
<body background="/images/blue_pap.gif">
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<P ALIGN=CENTER>
<IMG SRC="/images/pcqlogo.gif" ALT="PC Quote"></P>
<H1 ALIGN=CENTER>Stock Quote Service</H1>
<H3 ALIGN=CENTER>15-minute Delayed Market Information</H3>
<P ALIGN=CENTER>
<A HREF="http://www.spacecom.com:80/usage-quote/index.html"><IMG
ALIGN=TOP SRC="http://www.spacecom.com:80/usage-
quote/usage.graph.small.gif"></A>
For Quote Server Statistics, click <A
HREF="http://www.spacecom.com:80/usage-
quote/index.html">HERE. </A>
<OR><BR> For Statbot statistics <B>(updated every 15 minutes)</B>, click
<A
HREF="http://www.spacecom.com:80/stats/Welcome.html">HERE</A></P>
>

<HR>
<!-- For technical questions about this service, email <A HREF="mailto:web-
  
```

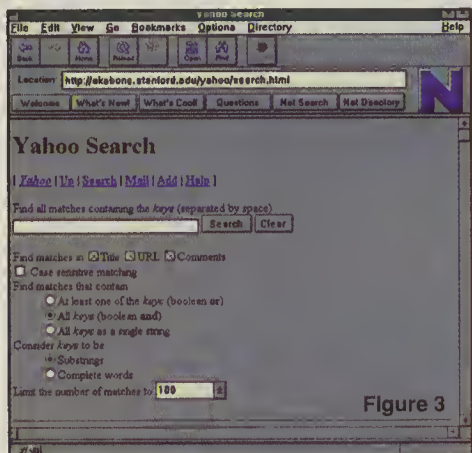


Figure 3


```

master@spacecom.com">webmaster@spacecom.com</A>.
For information about getting PC Quote quote real-time or delayed financial
information services on your LAN or desktop, email <A
HREF="mailto:maura@pcqt.com">Maura@pcqt.com</A>, or call (800)225-
5657 in the U.S., or (312)913-2800. Ask for Maura.</l>
<HR>
<P>
<FORM METHOD="GET" ACTION="/cgi-bin/getquote">
<EM>Enter ticker symbol for stock quote</EM><BR>
Ticker Symbol: <INPUT TYPE=text NAME="TICKER" size=12>
<input type =submit value="SUBMIT">
<P>
<HR>
<P>
</FORM>
<FORM METHOD="GET" ACTION="/cgi-bin/getticker">
<EM>Enter text to find ticker symbol</EM><BR>
Company Name: <INPUT TYPE=text NAME="DESC" size=25>
<INPUT TYPE=submit VALUE="SUBMIT">
<P>
<HR>
<P>
<A
HREF="http://www.spacecom.com:80/Participants/pcquote/Welcome.html">
<IMG SRC="/images/arrow_le.gif">Back </A>to PC Quote's Home
Page.<BR>
<P>
</FORM>
<P>
<P>
Creation Date: <EM>Jan 29, 1995</EM>
Interface designed by Kevin Bonifield, Software contributed by PC Quote.
<P>
</BODY>
</HTML>

```

Notice near the bottom of **Listing 1**, look at the following HTML of that document:

```

<FORM METHOD="GET" ACTION="/cgi-bin/getquote">
<EM>Enter ticker symbol for stock quote</EM><BR>
Ticker Symbol: <INPUT TYPE=text NAME="TICKER" size=12>
<input type =submit value="SUBMIT">
<P>
<HR>
<P>
</FORM>
<FORM METHOD="GET" ACTION="/cgi-bin/getticker">
<EM>Enter text to find ticker symbol</EM><BR>
Company Name: <INPUT TYPE=text NAME="DESC" size=25>
<INPUT TYPE=submit VALUE="SUBMIT">
</FORM>

```

Let's break this down.

The `<FORM METHOD="GET" ACTION="/cgi-bin/getquote">` has several elements within it. First it tells the browser that a form is starting with the `<FORM>` tag. It acts like many other tags that start then end with a closing tag. i.e `<HTML> & </HTML>`, `<HEAD> & </HEAD>` or `<BODY> & </BODY>`.

The METHOD attribute can be either be "GET" or "POST", the quotes can be deleted if you wish. What's the difference between GET and POST? Well a GET method, the information is encoded into the URL and the assigned to an environment variable on the server. The POST method is a lot like GET except instead of an environment variable, the information is sent to the server through what is called standard input. It doesn't use variables in the URL like GET does.

ACTION tells the browser which program to run on the WWW server, if that is the selected ACTION. In this example, it will run Getquote on Spacecom's WWW server.

The next line displays standard text in `` tags. So the text is emphasized (**Figure 4**).

The following tag: `<INPUT TYPE=text NAME="TICKER" size=12>` has multiple elements also. The `<INPUT TYPE=text>` tells the browser what kind of variable to create. In this case, it's a text variable of course. The NAME="TICKER" is the variable name. The variable length is size=12 or 12 characters.

The tag: `<input type =submit value="SUBMIT">` tells the browser to display a button labeled "SUBMIT". If it's clicked on, the browser submits the text variable TICKER, which could be up to 12 characters long, to the program getquote. Cool, huh? Complicated? Yep, but when you start working with it you will start to see how it works.

We can create "Interactive" HTML documents that use some one else's Gateway Scripts. For example we will create a simple form to use PC Quotes CGI to get stock quotes. You are probably wondering why not just point to their pages and let their site handle all of it. Well that would be the way to do it, if we weren't learning how to write scripts.

LISTING 2

```

<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Boardwatch Tutorial #4 Forms</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<P>
<H1>Stock Quotes</H1>
<H2>Provided By PC Quote</H2>
<HR>
<P>
<FORM METHOD="GET" ACTION="http://www.spacecom.com:8001/cgi-
bin/getquote">
<EM>Enter ticker symbol for stock quote</EM><BR>
Ticker Symbol: <INPUT TYPE=text NAME="TICKER" size=12>
<input type =submit value="SUBMIT">
<P>
<HR>
<P>
</FORM>
<FORM METHOD="GET" ACTION="http://www.spacecom.com:8001/cgi-
bin/getticker">
<EM>Enter text to find ticker symbol</EM><BR>
Company Name: <INPUT TYPE=text NAME="DESC" size=25>
<INPUT TYPE=submit VALUE="SUBMIT">
<P>
<HR>

```

In **Listing 2** we are using the same method as PC Quote. This HTML document will be rendered as **Figure 5**, which is pretty close to PC Quote's page. (Compare **Figure 4** to **Figure 5**).

Did you notice that the ACTION element changed from ACTION="/cgi-bin/getquote" in **Listing 1** to ACTION="http://www.spacecom.com: 8001/cgi-bin/getquote" in **Listing 2**? The reason for that is **Listing 1** resided on www.spacecom.com. **Listing 2** resides locally. The browser needed to know where the ACTION was going to take place, which in this case is on www.spacecom.com port 8001.

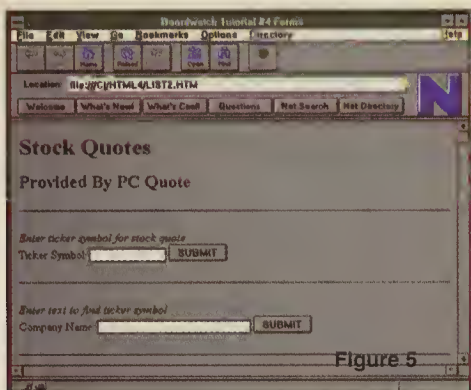


Figure 5

lowing local companies stock symbols: ACI, ASH, BEL, N, SWVA and UK.

Notice the following from **Listing 3**:

LISTING 3

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Boardwatch Tutorial #4</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<H1>Regional Stock Quotes</H1>
<P>
<FORM METHOD="GET" ACTION="http://www.spacecom.com:8001/cgi-
bin/getquote">
<EM>Select the ticker symbol for a PC Quote stock quote</EM><P>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="aci">Ashland Coal,
Inc.<BR>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="ash">Ashland Oil<BR>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="bel">Bell Atlantic
Corporation<BR>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="n">INCO Alloys
International, Inc.<BR>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="swva">Steel Of West
Virginia, Inc.<BR>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="uk">Union Carbide
Corporation<BR>
<P>
<input type =submit value="Request Quote">

</FORM>
<P>
```

```
<FORM METHOD="GET"
ACTION="http://www.spacecom.com:8001/cgi-bin/getquote">
<EM>Select the ticker symbol for a PC Quote stock quote</EM><P>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="aci">Ashland Coal,
Inc.<BR>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="ash">Ashland
Oil<BR>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="bel">Bell Atlantic
Corporation<BR>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="n">INCO Alloys
International, Inc.<BR>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="swva">Steel Of West
Virginia, Inc.<BR>
<INPUT TYPE=radio NAME="TICKER" VALUE="uk">Union Carbide
Corporation<BR>
<input type =submit value="Request Quote">
</FORM>
```

The first part of the form is the same as **Listing 1** and **Listing 2**. But notice the `INPUT TYPE=radio`, this will display a round, selectable radio button. (**Figure 6**) If you select a different button, it will unselect the first button and select the new button. Remember those old car radios? So you

Pretty simple right? Well we can't have that. Look at **Listing 3**. We are going to use Radio Buttons to provide a selection of regional interest stocks. Since I live here in Wild Wonderful West Virginia, I'll use the fol-

would use RADIO buttons to allow only one possible selection. i.e Male, Female or Other.

Looking at the rest of the INPUT line, PC Quote's gateway script expects the stock symbol value to be stored in a variable called "TICKER." Pretty simple. Notice that the six choices only differ in what the VALUE is, plus I put what the button stood for following the >. Otherwise you wouldn't know what the button was for.

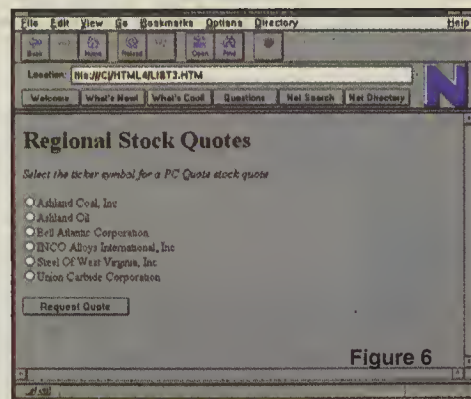


Figure 6

The `<INPUT TYPE=SUBMIT VALUE="Request Quote">` is absolutely necessary. This causes the browser to render a button labeled "Request Quote." When this button is pressed, it will SUBMIT the selected information from the provided data. In this case, it will submit to `http://www.spacecom.com/cgi-bin/getquote` the variable `TICKER=n`.

When the WWW server gets this, it will send the information to the gateway script `GETQOUTE`. (**Figure 2**) This script will process the request and send a HTML document, that it created in real time, back to our browser. (**Figure 7**)

Now you see why this can be of great benefit to companies on the Web. That wraps up this month's article; next month we will continue on CGI or gateway scripts and how you need to configure your WWW/HTTP server to run CGI. By the way, see if you can figure out those new HTML tags in **Listing 1**. See you next month...◆

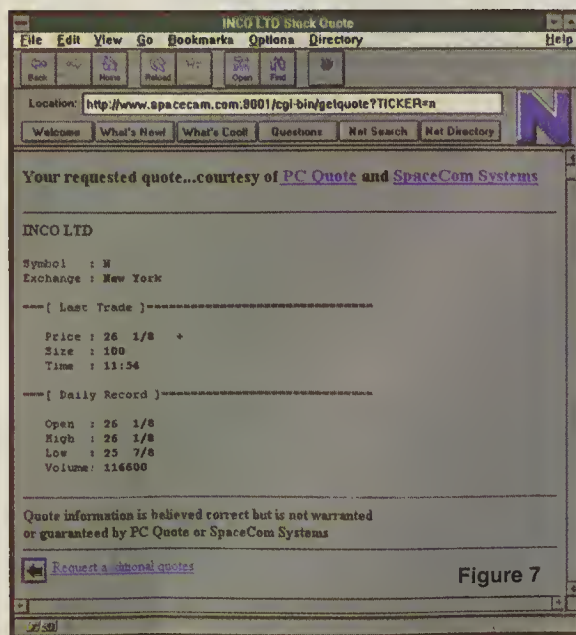
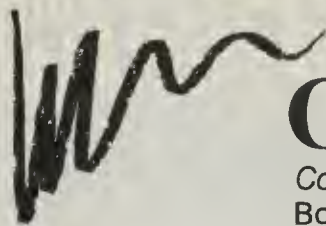


Figure 7



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A Needs Analysis will provide you with a personalized, comprehensive and confidential report indicating true Costs, scheduling, cost reducing options, service bureau cost comparison and much more. Don't guess at your needs. Call Toby Schneider at our Chicago office for a true Need Analysis. Surprisingly affordable.

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Order a 4 line system from GW Associates for Only \$469.95 and receive the SYSOM Option module for FREE, including shipping! 4-line TBBS and TDBS alone are normally \$690.00. With Sysom this is a \$789.00 value.

We will beat any advertised price on eSoft products. Just fax Pete White in our Boston office a copy of any legitimate ad or written quote and we'll beat it! (price subject to change without notice.)

The BBS number is:
1-508-429-8385

Please call for full pricing and to try many third party programs on-line or download demos.

Boston: **Pete White**, 508-429-6227
Chicago: **Toby Schneider**, 708-298-6919
Raleigh-Durham: **Tom Faulkner**, 919-403-9473
San Jose: **John Schachat**, 408-267-7176

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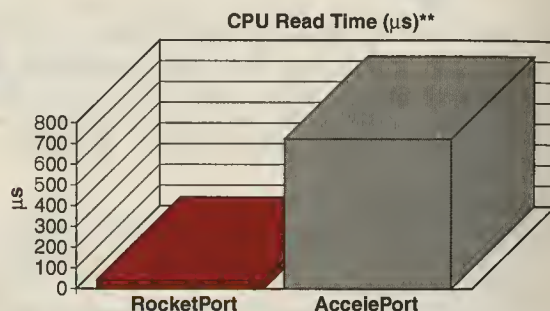
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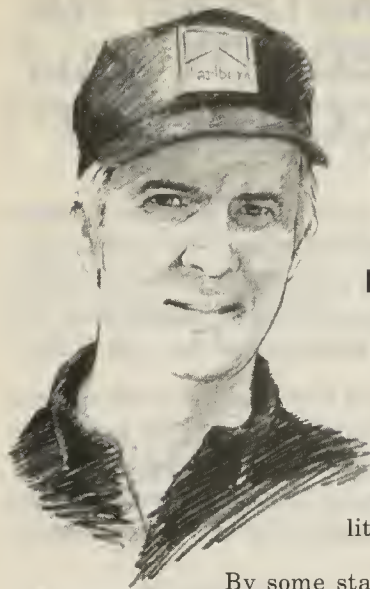
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TECHNOLOGY FRONT

by Jim Thompson
Western News Service

FIND IT FAST WITH ASKSAM FOR WINDOWS

For years, I have been picking up litter along the electronic highway — litter in the form of tens of thousands of e-mail messages. At times, it seems that I am virtually swimming in this “virtual” litter.

By some standards, the amount of e-mail that I receive is rather modest — only about 60 messages a day. But even this moderate number amounts to nearly 22,000 messages a year or more than 11-Megabytes of information!

In the beginning, the problem was gathering these messages. But soon I was faced with what to do with the messages and how to find what I wanted when I wanted it. My first solution was to dump everything into a word processor. Then, with the aid of the search feature, a good deal of patience and lots of luck, I would sift through all the information with the hope of finding what I needed. This is a bit like the task of finding an honest lawyer: you know there is one out there somewhere, but finding him can take a lifetime.

As I say, that is the way I USED to do things. Everything changed when a little program called askSam™ for Windows version 2.0 entered my life.

FREE-FORM DATABASE

Strictly speaking, askSam is a database, costing \$149.95 for single user Windows version, but it would be a disservice to limit this excellent program to a single category. Traditional databases deal with structured data in a structured format. While askSam for Windows can handle such structured information with the best of them, it can also organize information that does not have a structure. This ability to work with any and all types of data makes this program one that far exceeds the limits of most traditional databases.

askSam for Windows is a free-form database that combines the best features of a database, word processor, personal information manager (PIM) and a text retrieval system.

Like a database, askSam can easily manage structured information, sort fields and manage reports. Unlike a traditional database, however, with askSam you are not limited to a pre-defined structure. It allows you to conduct searches involving several words or fields. Even memo fields can be searched with ease.

Like a word processor, askSam lets you create and edit documents, format documents using various fonts and formatting techniques, and import documents from other word processors.

Like a text retrieval system, with askSam it is possible to conduct boolean or proximity searches to locate specific information in your documents. Once located, the information can be sorted, exported to other documents or used in reports.

It's like having a big junk drawer or a very large show box — a place where you can dump everything for safekeeping — with the added ability to find anything you need instantly.

WINDOWS INTERFACE

askSam is not a new program. The DOS version has been around for a long time and over the years it has garnered numerous awards and many loyal followers. While I have used the DOS version for many years, I must admit that it was not the easiest program to operate due to its sometimes difficult to remember command syntax. The DOS version is still available but most will find the Windows version much easier to use.

askSam for Windows offers the ease of use and convenience of the MS-Windows interface. All the major features are just a mouse click away. Power users and those familiar with the DOS version can use the command line to enter commands or initiate searches directly.

askSam is easy to use mainly because it feels more like a word processor than a database. For most people, the word processor interface is a more comfortable environment in which to work. A menu bar provides access to most features while the icon tool bar gives instant access to frequently used features. Both the menu bar and the tool bar can be fully customized allowing immediate access to your most frequently used commands.



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Creating a database is as easy as starting a new document in a word processor. The database can have explicit fields and a structured entry form or have no structure at all — it all depends on your needs and your style of working. For example, if you choose to use explicit fields, like a traditional database, you do not have to specify a length or type for the fields, but you can if you want.

Once the basic structure is created you are free to enter data in any way you find most comfortable. You can use predefined templates to limit the structure and the amount of information or you can just start typing — askSam doesn't care. Best of all, you can be assured that no matter how random the information, askSam will be able to make sense of it, and help you find anything you need.

Getting information into askSam couldn't be easier or more flexible. You can type in the information or import it from another source. askSam has the ability to import files directly from Microsoft Word 6.0, Wordperfect 6.0, Nexis, Lexis, the Internet and the Compuserve Information Manager. It can also directly import ASCII and RTF documents. If you want or need a structure, you can import comma-delimited, tab delimited and fixed position data from other databases.

An optional Filter Pak is available which allows you to import data from AmiPro 1.1 - 3.0, Microsoft Word (DOS) 3.0 - 6.0, Word for Windows 1 - 2, WordPerfect 4.1 - 4.2, WordStar 3.3 - 7.0, Professional Write Plus, XyWrite III - IV, Signature, XyWrite for Windows 1.0, Lotus 1-2-3 1A - 3.0, Excel 2.1 - 4.0, QuattroPro 4.0, QuattroPro for Windows 1.0.

Importing data, askSam might select the dollar sign (\$) or a colon (as in To: or From:) as a field identifier. After the information is imported, you are presented with a list of possible field identifiers based on recurring patterns. Later, when preparing a report, you could search or sort data based on these fields just as you would with a conventional database.

If this is not enough, an OCR add-on allows you to scan text directly into your database; this feature will cost you **\$99.95** for the ReadIris OCR Module.

Created by the IRIS corporation, the OCR add-on is a full version of the ReadIris OCR software that integrates with askSam. With the add-on, you can scan any text document (even business cards) into your database. From here, the information can be edited, printed, saved as an ASCII file or pasted into another application.

"ReadIris was selected by askSam Systems because it is equal to or better than the leading OCR packages on the market in terms of accuracy and ease of use. We are very pleased with the high degree of accuracy that can be achieved with this OCR package," says Bea McKinney, Vice President

INTELLIGENT IMPORTING

askSam has a good deal of intelligence built into it. When importing data, you can select an "automatic field recognition" mode which will detect common elements in documents that can be used as field identifiers. For example, when

of Public Relations for askSam Systems.

The OCR engine reads most proportional or monospaced fonts. Graphics can also be scanned, imported and saved as TIFF, MS-Paint and Paintbrush files. These graphic images can be inserted into askSam files and documents.

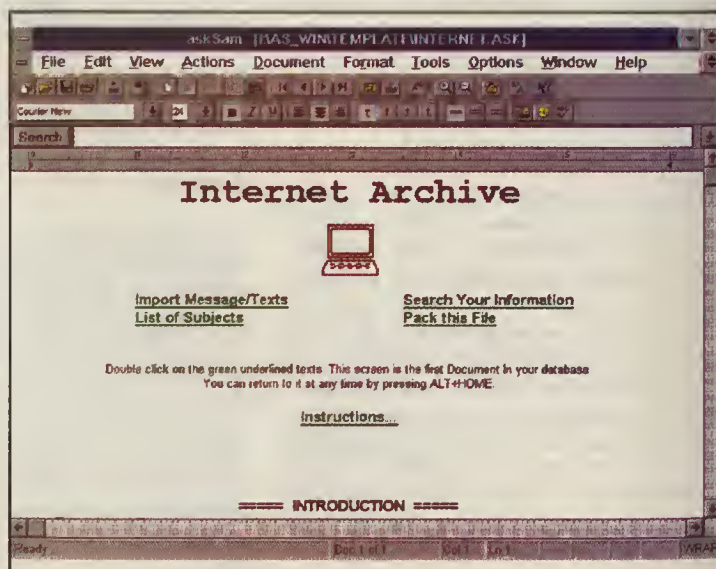
Documents are limited in size to 16,000 lines and databases are limited (if you can call this a limit) to 4-Gigabytes. However, you can have an unlimited number of documents in a database, an unlimited number of fields in a document and an unlimited number of databases.

The program also supports Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) allowing you to insert other applications, such as photos, graphics, spreadsheets, sound and video clips into your documents. In many cases, such as audio clips or text, the linked or embedded objects appear as icons in the base document. Double clicking with your mouse on the icon plays back the audio or displays the associated text.

The OCR package works with any scanner that is SPIA, SAPI and TWAIN compliant. Specific drivers are available for most popular scanners.

Once your data has been entered, you are free to sort, search and output the information in virtually any manner you choose.

The program comes with a number of templates for working with various sources of data. Templates are pre-configured database structures, which contain reports. They can be used "as is" or modified to suit a specific purpose.



Creating your own templates (database structure) is quite easy, but you can get some good ideas of the power of askSam by looking at or using the included templates.

Among the templates is one for use with Internet Mail and Newsgroups. This one item alone has saved me hours of work and untold frustration. I can take all the "litter" I pick-up along the electronic highways and byways and dump it into askSam. Without any complications, askSam for Windows imports the data, separates the various messages into individual documents, automatically locates field identifiers, furnishes me with various report formats and provides me with a structure for sorting and searching for information.

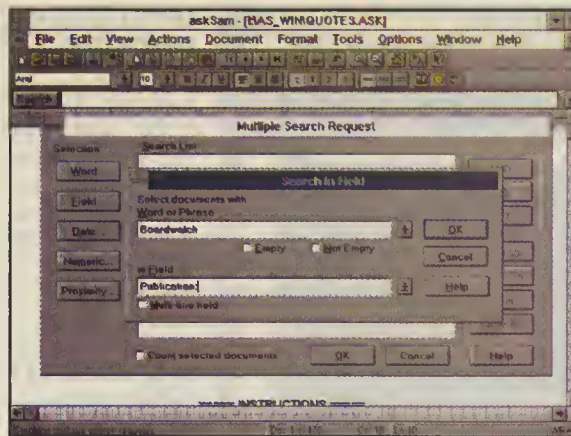
"The information highway has opened up a lot of opportunities for us. In future versions of askSam, you should see such things as an HTML import/export filter," according to Phil Schnyder, President of askSam Systems.

POWERFUL SEARCH CAPABILITIES

One of the best features of the Windows version is that you can build complicated searches from the menus. All the associated code, which you would have to enter by hand in the DOS version, is generated automatically. Full boolean (AND, OR NOT) searching is supported allowing for sophisticated search combinations.

Wildcards are also accepted. Entering German* will find Germans, Germany, Germanic and German-made documents. Searches can be done on the current document or on all documents in a database. You can also limit a search to a specific field, by numeric comparison (only records where the balance field is greater than \$5,000, for example). Numeric searches use all of the greater-than, less-than or equal to operators (<, >, =<, =>, =, <, >).

Proximity searches allow you to find two words or phrases occurring within a specified proximity of one another. For example, you could find all documents where "Frost" and "poetry" appear in the same paragraph or locate documents containing "Andretti" and "win" within five words of one another. With multiple search requests, you can combine any and all types of searches. This robust search capability makes askSam one of the most versatile search programs/databases on the market.



Hypertext Links are also possible making it easy to navigate through documents or files. Hypertext links can be used to run reports and execute menu commands.

FULL REPORTING ABILITIES

Finding your information is only part of the solution. Unless you can output that information into a meaningful format, it does little good. With this in mind, askSam for Windows provides some excellent, easy-to-use tools for creating reports.

Drag and Drop editing allows you to drag a field from the list of field names presented in the report writer and drop it in the desired position in your report. Using the Drag and Drop feature along with the ability to add any text or graphics you want to appear in your final document, creating reports couldn't be easier.

Prompts can also be added to reports to allow for user input. Report Links make it easy to jump from a report back to the original file or document. A report that is output to the screen is automatically linked to the original file. Double clicking on any line in a report jumps you back to the corresponding original document.

askSam also has a mail merge feature allowing for the merging of addresses and other information into documents. There is even a built-in spell checker to make sure your final documents are as close to perfect as possible.

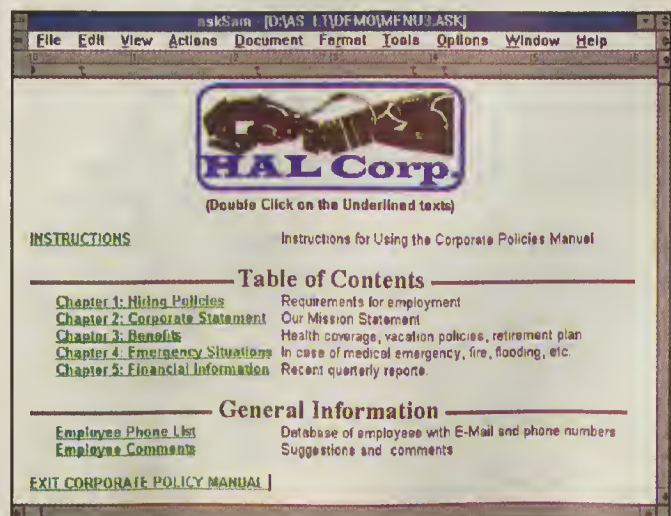
A network version allows everyone in an office or workgroup to share information. "The network version provides all the flexibility of askSam with the added benefit of sharing files in a LAN environment and the security of record locking. It allows a group of people to edit, add to and access the same database. The network version is perfect for corporate manuals, telephone messages, addresses and research notes," says McKinney.

The network version works well with all major networking systems. According to a company spokesperson, it has been tested to work with Novell Netware, Windows for Workgroups, Windows NT and Lantastic and should run with any network system that will run Windows. The additional cost for the network version is \$1,095 for five users to \$15,000 per 100 users.

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHER EDITION

The newest addition to the askSam family is Electronic Publisher, which offers a simple and effective method for distributing information such as manuals, catalogs, databases and reports. The package contains a full edition of askSam for Windows in which you create your document. The document can then be distributed to end users along with a viewer, which provides access to the askSam search engine and other features.

"askSam's Electronic Publisher essentially provides a read only version of askSam. It adds a powerful search engine to your information, making it the perfect tool for distributing infor-



mation electronically. Users can run programs, execute hypertext links or use any of the search facilities, but they cannot edit or change the information," said Schnyder.

Electronic Publisher includes an unlimited viewer license, so developers can create and distribute unlimited copies of their final product. Once complete, the document can be distributed along with a special askSam viewer, and this would cost the purchaser an additional \$995.00.

CONCLUSIONS

askSam is a joy to use. Installation is simple and straightforward. The documentation is clear and easy to follow. Best of all, this is a program with a long lineage that seems to get better over time. It is rare that I find nothing to complain about in a program — askSam is one of those rare programs.

I have found the askSam technical support personnel to be extremely friendly and very knowledgeable. It's a pleasure to place a call to tech support and get through to someone right away. It is an even greater pleasure to talk with someone who knows the program they represent and can provide genuine solutions to any problems that may arise. One has the feeling that the people who work at askSam Systems are like a close-knit family. From the president on down, they are always friendly and helpful — a combination that is becoming rare in the growing computer industry. Getting organized! What a concept!

askSam is one of the most versatile and easy to use program I have found. I use it and I recommend it to anyone who wants or needs to keep track of large amounts of information. The program requires MS-Windows 4Mb of RAM, 2Mb of disk space and there is currently no Macintosh version available.

For more information about this product contact askSam for Windows at askSam Systems, P.O. Box 1428, Perry, Florida 32347. You can call them at 800-800-1997 for more information. ♦

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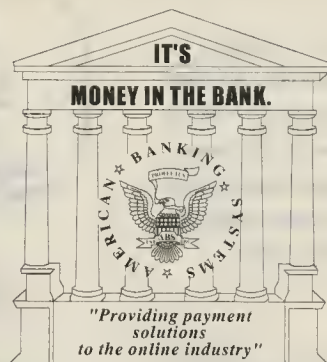
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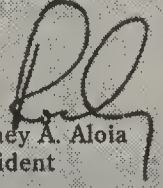
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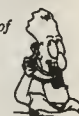
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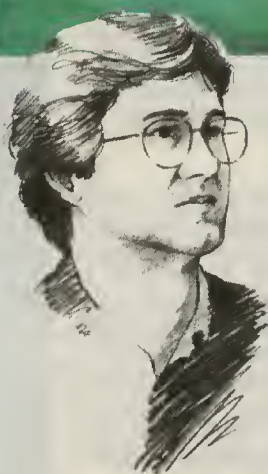
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INTERNET DECODER RINGS SOLD HERE

Computers are stupid, and they hate people. That's the simple explanation for the existence of uuencoded files. Of course, the fact that this all has something to do with UNIX just makes the situation worse...

The utility known as uuencode was born in UNIX, a fact to which the two U's that start its name will testify. Some guy with one-too-many pocket protectors suddenly realized one day that UNIX was so portable that it prevented you from porting binary files from one computer to another.

So a set of programs was developed to translate those binary smilies, bangs and tildes to nice ASCII characters (and vice-versa), so they would flow from UNIX to UNIX without any chance of characters being mistranslated in the process. Hence, the evil twins uuencode and uudecode.

If you've ever tried to send an executable or image file over the Internet without first encoding it, chances are the intended recipient got a pile of bits that was of little value. And if you were savvy enough to compress and uuencode, chances are still pretty good that your friend is staring at a bunch of 61-character lines thinking "This doesn't look anything like Heather Locklear!"

Cut your buddy some slack and send him a copy of this article. You'll save yourself the trouble of explaining how to decode, and your friend will be able to stop crossing his eyes while moving slowly away from the screen.

Here's a set of instructions for decoding a file that has arrived by e-mail. Since encoded files are often split into multiple parts to ensure safe passage through Internet nodes with small file size thresholds, we'll assume that is the case here. (If your encoded file arrives in one piece, you should be able to adapt the instructions below to handle that case.)

1. Save each of the parts in a separate file on your own computer and perform these steps with a text editor or word processor.
2. Remove all lines in file one except for the **begin** line and the 61-character encoded data lines that follow. Make sure the filename on the **begin** line is valid for your operating system, because that is the name that uudecode will use to create the decoded output file. The file should now look something like this:


```
begin 644 sample.zip
M4$!L#!!0` `` `(`/M81!ZD5=J(1P` `` $L` `` `` ` ``
`4T%-4$Q%+E185`O)R"Q6
```
3. For the intermediate files, remove all lines except for the 61-character encoded data lines. You should be left with something like this:

M`*)\$A>+\$W(*<5(72TM2\Y/R4U!2%M,R<5#T%!<\
TA<K\4H7DQ#R#HM3\$(42
MH`X=D)!Z6:I"<6ER<FHJ4+4B+Q<`4\$!L!`A0`%``
``@`^UA\$`J15WTA`````

4. Do the same for the last file, but keep the lines near the bottom which may be shorter. The last line of the file should be the **end** line. The last file should now resemble:

```

M2P`H`0@`%-
135!,12Y46%102P4&`$`0`X
)`;P`
end

```

Bob Rankin, known as "Doctor Bob" in the online world, is a computer programmer and consultant who enjoys exploring the Internet and sharing the fruit of his experience with others. His free guide

Rankin has also authored *"100 Cool Things To Do On The Internet"* and *"Doctor Bob's Internet Business Guide"*, which are available for \$5.00 each. For details, send e-mail to bobrankin@mhv.net with Subject: send info

GLOBAL ELECTRONIC YOUR BULLETIN

The Personal Internet Mail Processor (PIMP) is an option module for eSoft, Inc.'s bulletin board system, The Bread Board System (TBBS). It allows any TBBS bulletin board to interact with the global Internet for electronic mail and USENET News Groups, and it provides one of the most integrated presentations of e-mail and newsgroups of any mail solution available in the online community. Callers to a TBBS system that has the PIMP option module will deal with global electronic mail in virtually exactly the same way they deal with local system e-mail - no ugly kludges or commands to learn to send mail to friends on CompuServe, Prodigy, America Online, or thousands of other sites in over 130 countries. If they have the Internet mail address of the person they wish to reach, they can send them mail without any further instruction at all. And all of your callers will have their own Internet e-mail address on your system. Anyone on earth can send them e-mail from anywhere, at any time.

PIMP imports RFC-822 style message files into the TBBS message base in real time. As a full TBBS option module, it loads with the BBS and operates continuously to import received mail to the message database, and export messages entered by callers for delivery to the Internet. It's primary function is as a message database import/export utility and mail gateway. And its main strength is that you do not have to take the system down at all - it operates in conjunction with TBBS to constantly import and export mail.

In the most common configuration, to participate in the global exchange of electronic mail and USENET newsgroups, you need three things:

1. A functioning TBBS bulletin board system.
2. A dial-up UUCP host account with an Internet Service Provider.
3. The Personal Internet Mail Processor (PIMP).

For delivery, PIMP is quite flexible:

1. It can work with an external Unix. Unix Copy Program (UUCP) program such as Waffle's UUCICO or FXUUCICO.
2. It includes its own internal UUCICO program that uses any unused BBS line and modem to dial your host and deliver mail as necessary, and pickup any waiting mail from your UUCP account host.
3. It is fully compatible with eSoft's Internet Protocol Adapter (IPAD) for direct connections to the Internet and the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) capability for instant message delivery, as well as Net News Transport Protocol (NNTP) provided by IPAD.

FEATURES:

SEAMLESS ELECTRONIC MAIL:

PIMP is very tightly integrated into the TBBS system. Callers simply enter an Internet address in the normal TO field of the message, and that's where the message goes. They can use the normal Reply function of TBBS to respond to mail received from anywhere in the world. File attachments are still attached, messages can be forwarded, all the functions of the TBBS message system work as they do locally. Beyond the Internet addressing itself, your callers already know how to send and receive mail to any site on earth.

INTERNAL UUCP & PROTOCOL:

PIMP can use any unused BBS line to dial your host and do a full UUCP session, supporting Windows 7 and packet sizes up to 1024 bytes in size. This provides optimum UUCP protocol session performance to deliver mail and newsgroup messages to your host, and receive mail and newsgroup messages waiting for your BBS. You can use any available BBS line to do this, and can schedule this activity to occur as often as you like. Messages entered by callers can be scanned out and delivered in as little as one minute. Messages received from your host will be processed immediately after the call is completed.

USENET NEWSGROUPS:

PIMP can support an unlimited number of newsgroups, and an unlimited number of newsgroup messages. The TBBS total limitation of 60,000 messages in the message base still applies. Newsgroups are very easy to configure using TBBS's topical message base structure. PIMP can toss a single message to multiple newsgroups for crossposting, and it handles long subject lines and RE: message threading. Messages longer than the TBBS limit of 9999 bytes are broken into a series of successive messages. PIMP can also process satellite delivered .BAG files directly.

FILE ATTACHMENTS:

PIMP automatically and transparently deals with TBBS message file attachments. Messages received that include UUENCODED files are automatically decoded and presented as TBBS message file attachments to your callers and would appear to them exactly as any local message with a file attachment. Messages your callers send with a file attachment will automatically be UUENCODED for delivery to the Internet in a way that any recipient can easily uudecode to get the original file attachment intact.

MAILING LIST SERVER:

You can host your own Internet mailing list on your TBBS system. Correspondents can add themselves to the list automatically by sending an e-mail message to the system, and likewise remove themselves from the mailing list with a simple e-mail message. When join-

NIC MAIL FROM BOARD

Jack Rickard's Personal Internet Mail Processor

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ing the list, they will automatically receive any file you specify as a welcome text file. All messages addressed to the list will automatically be reflected to all list correspondents - no matter where they are.

FTP FILE SERVER:

PIMP can also act as a file server on a global basis. Correspondents from anywhere on the planet can send a simple e-mail message to your system requesting a specific file. PIMP will search the directories YOU make "public" for the corresponding file, and automatically send a reply message back with the file in UUENCODED format.

INFORMATION SERVER:

PIMP will allow you to define specific "information" addresses. Any correspondent can send a simple message to this address with no instructions of any kind in the message - just the act of sending mail to the address will cause an automatic e-mail reply containing any file you specify. In this way, you can make product information, company profiles, newsletters, or anything else available on a global basis for anyone to retrieve - all entirely automatically.

BOUNCE MESSAGES:

For every message your system receives, PIMP will automatically search your user database to see if the message is deliverable. If it is, the caller will find the message in their message waiting chain the next time they call. If the message is not deliverable, PIMP will automatically send out a reply message noting that no such user is registered at your site.

UUCP SERVER:

PIMP can actually act as a UUCP hub server as well as a client. You can setup callers with UUCP accounts allowing them to dial up automatically and retrieve mail and newsgroups using any UUCP mail package. Their mail will be waiting for them, as well as any newsgroups they specify they want to receive. And multiple callers or other BBS systems can call your multiline TBBS simultaneously to do UUCP mail transfers.

Each account is actually a subdomain under your domain. For example, if your domain name is BIGBBS.COM, you can setup hundreds of accounts with subdomains under yours such as REDSTAR.BIGBBS.COM, WHITE.BIGBBS.COM, JOESBBS.BIGBBS.COM, SALLY.BIGBBS.COM and so forth. You can even build "pyramids" of systems connected via UUCP.

TDBS APPLICATION SPAWNING:

eSoft also makes a database development option module called The Data Base System or TDBS. Almost ALL third party add-ons and programs for TBBS are actually written as a TDBS application. PIMP is NOT. PIMP is a 100% assembly language true option mod-

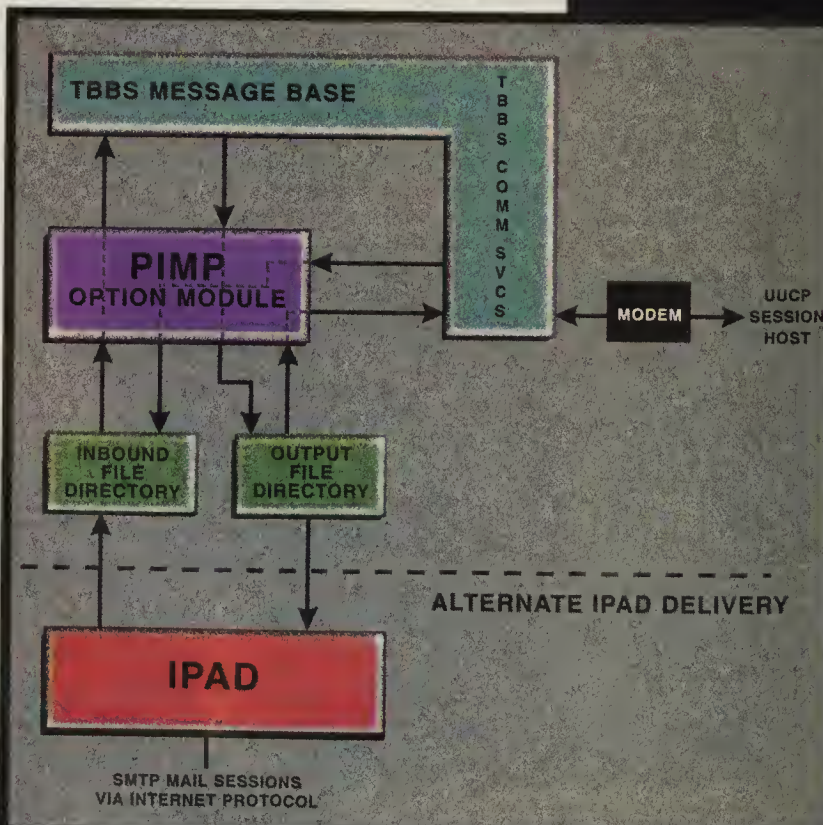
ule for TBBS similar to TDBS, ULTRACHAT, SYSOM, or other eSoft option modules. PIMP DOES NOT REQUIRE TDBS OR ANY OTHER TBBS OPTION MODULE FOR ANYTHING.

But PIMP CAN spawn or run other TDBS applications on receipt of mail or on creation of mail. In fact, it can run ANY TDBS application you specify and even run separate applications for receipt of mail from that run on creation of mail. So if you have some special mail pre or post processing you need for your application, you can develop this in TDBS and PIMP will run it for you. In fact, there are several such applications already available in the community.

IPAD COMPATIBILITY:

One of the most exciting developments for Internet connectivity is eSoft's Internet Protocol Adapter or IPAD. This component connects your TBBS system directly to the Internet using the Internet Protocol over leased lines or SLIP connections. PIMP and IPAD work together to provide almost instant global mail. The IPAD and PIMP can share inbound/outbound message directories with the IPAD providing SMTP client/server capabilities. PIMP feeds outbound mail to IPAD in the correct format and IPAD delivers it to its destination via SMTP. SMTP received by IPAD simply appears in PIMP's inbound message directory and PIMP adds it directly to the TBBS message base. USENET news is handled similarly.

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5. Now join all the files into one. (Under DOS, you can use a command like this: "copy part.one+part.two+part.three sample.uue." Under UNIX, you can use the **cp** or **cat** commands to join the files.)

6. You're now ready to decode! Enter the command: **uudecode sample.uue** and a file named **sample.zip** (or whatever you put on your "begin" line) should be produced.

Note that some versions of uudecode gag if the output file already exists. You can either delete it or try the "-o" option to overwrite it. ie: **uudecode -o sample.uue**

7. If the output from uudecode is a plain ASCII file, you're done. If it's a compressed binary file (.zip, .Z, .gz, etc.), you'll need to decompress it using the appropriate tool (pkunzip, uncompress, gunzip, etc...).

By the way, the eight lines from above comprise a valid uuencoded file. You might want to strip out just those lines and practice uudecoding and unzipping. If you're successful, you'll end up with a **sample.txt** file containing a message that will assure you it was done right!

If you'd rather not type in those lines from scratch, there are some instructions at the end of this article that will help you get some uuencoded files via FTPmail, so you can practice on them.

CATCH 22 TIME

Now where do we find uudecode? The best place to look would be in your BBS or service provider's download area. Don't try to retrieve a copy of the uude-

code executable by e-mail, you'll have a heck of a time trying to uudecode it!

If you don't have the file available on your local system, you'll have to find the uudecode source code, which will travel just fine since it's ASCII, and create the executable from that. If you're DOS-based, you'll need the BASIC program **uudecode.bas**, which when run will create **uudecode.com** for you. If you're unixy, go for **uudecode.c** and compile it with the "cc" command. (Just remember that the executable will be named "a.out", so rename it with the "mv a.out uudecode" command.)

The latest version of uudecode (and uuencode) can be found at the SimTel repository on the Internet. Send e-mail to **listserv@SimTel.Coast.NET**, including any or all of these commands in the BODY of the note, and the requested files will be returned to you by e-mail.

```
get uudecode.bas
get uudecode.c
get uudecode.doc
get uuencode.bas
get uuencode.c
```

Note: Uuencoded files generated or moved through a UNIX system may have LF (ASCII 10) line endings instead of the DOS-convention CR/LF (ASCII 13/10) endings. The SimTel version of UUDECODE will handle those LF ends of line as well. You may get an "end not found" message, but the uudecoded file will still be correctly generated.

You should be aware that there are other ASCII<->Binary translators floating around. You might receive a

file that has been Mime-encoded or bin-hex'd. You'll need to find decoders for these special formats, so hop on over to the **oak.oakland.edu** FTP site, navigate to the **SimTel/msdos/decode** directory, and you'll find them there. (The files **mime64b.zip** and **hexbin.zip** may prove most useful.)

If you don't have direct FTP access, send these lines to **ftp mail@census.gov**

```
open oak.oakland.edu    <- connect
                           to the server
cd SimTel/msdos/decode  <- move to
                           proper directory
get 00_index.txt         <- list files
                           & descriptions
binary                  <- switch to
                           binary mode
get mime64b.zip          <- get the
                           file
```

You can also find Windows decoders at this site, strangely enough in the **SimTel/win3/encode** directory. Here are the FTP commands:

```
cd SimTel/win3/encode    <- move to
                           proper directory
get 00_index.txt         <- list files
                           & descriptions
binary                  <- switch to
                           binary mode
get uucod314.zip         <- a
                           Windows decoder app
```

Don't worry about the "binary" commands above. The FTPmail server will automatically uuencode the binary files before sending them! ♦



PROCOMM PLUS ADDS INTERNET FEATURES

by Jack Rickard

DATASTORM has announced the release of Version 2.1 of their PROCOMM PLUS for Windows that adds integrated support for telnet and file transfer protocol.

PROCOMM PLUS is probably the most widely used terminal communications package available for IBM compatible personal computers and is consistently listed as one of the top selling utility programs through retail channels. The product started life as a shareware program developed by Bruce Barkelew and Tom Smith who

operated a partnership - PIL Software Systems in California. The product was sufficiently well received that they moved the operation to Columbia Missouri and started DATASTORM TECHNOLOGIES, INC. Today Datastorm employs some 250 people in Missouri and they are currently building a new 150,000 square-foot facility.

The new 2.1 release adds a number of features, but most notably Internet support. PROCOMM PLUS can now work with any WINSOCK to allow users to telnet and ftp to any site on the Internet as easily as they can dial a local BBS.

This is actually a bit interesting. An increasing number of bulletin boards are connected to the Internet. But virtually NONE of the telnet applications available support ANSI color and IBM graphics correctly. As a result, telnetting to a BBS is too often an eye shattering experience. We reviewed a product titled COMt in a previous issue that allowed you to splice an ordinary terminal communications program to WINSOCK, making familiar features such as ZMODEM, ANSI color, and IBM graphics available via telnet connections. PROCOMM PLUS version 2.1 does not require COMt. The link to the WINSOCK Internet connection is made internally much as you would define any other com port.

The program also includes PWFTP. This is undoubtedly a port of the very popular WS-FTP program. It effectively replaces the file transfer protocol program command line with a pair of file directory windows. One directory for your local computer, and one for the remote computer you are connecting to. It allows you to navigate remote file directories easily, and transfer a file from one of their directories to your local drive with a click of the mouse.

PWFTP not only appears as a separate program in the Procomm Windows group, but also as a selectable item on the TOOLS menu of the Procomm program itself. In this way, you can actually telnet into a sight, and then ftp into that site or another simultaneously. It is remarkably well integrated with this communications program and a joy to use.

The terminal display can be configured for a large borderless window with large easy to read characters. As a result, the Internet looks a lot BIGGER to us these days than it had previously,

and the relief from eye-strain is quite a treat. You can have the window sized to your font, the font sized to the window, or both operate independently. We found Procomm's own special PCPlus 437 font at 16 points the most readable.

The Internet connection is the big news in this release, but some other features are worth noting. The fax function has become a very integral part of the program as well. You can create a little memo in a small window and fax it very easily. It will also allow you to send existing files, receive faxes, view them, zoom in on them, rotate them in the event you receive one that is "upside down" and so forth.

The dialing directory supports data, fax, and voice numbers and you can have any number of directories. The program will examine your system and automatically configure itself for your com port and modem; it sports a list of 900 supported modems and configurations. It has fairly exotic scripts for dialing CompuServe and MCI Mail and exchanging e-mail. The scrollbar buffer can now hold 1300 pages of captured session data. It supports Caller ID, distinctive ringing, and fax/data call discrimination with modems that support those features.

Host mode now supports a fax back function that allows callers to have information faxed to them. And a new IND&FILE file transfer protocol allows upload to IBM mainframes.

We were almost instantly comfortable with this program. The 2.1 version is available at a suggested retail price of \$179. Datastorm Technologies, Inc., 2401 Lemone Blvd., PO Box 1471, Columbia, MO 65205; (314)443-3282 voice; (314)875-0595 fax.

COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY ACT PASSES SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Electronic Frontier Foundation - March 25, 1995

March 23, 1995, the Senate Commerce Committee passed telecom legislation that included an amended version of the Communications Decency Act of 1995, commonly known as "the Exon Amendment." This draft was introduced by Sen. Slade Gorton (R-VT). The Electronic Frontier Foundation

(EFF) opposes the inclusion of the "decency" provisions in this legislation for the following reasons:

** The bill places operators of smaller systems at risk.*

While the new version of the bill seems to attempt to protect large information service providers by including a list of available defenses, smaller bulletin board systems (BBSs) and other information services that cannot afford to assert these defenses in court are left without any protection at all. Operators of smaller, local systems will be unable to test the line where constitutional speech ends and criminal speech begins. These small businesses of the online world are put at a competitive disadvantage.

Also, protections such as lack of editorial control (Section 402[d][2]) may not apply to the majority of bulletin board systems and many other online services that provide content as well as conduit, nor to systems that present certain types of moderated forums.

The ambiguity of the coverage and defenses leaves gaps that raise serious constitutional issues. In 1989, the Supreme Court in *Sable Communications v. FCC* established that indecent material cannot be banned entirely, and that prohibiting indecency to protect minors is an unconstitutional violation of the free speech rights of adults. The prohibition of "filthy" speech has no legal authority whatsoever.

The Gorton/Exon amendment may fail to distinguish between consensual and non-consensual activities, and between private and public communications. A steamy love note sent privately between spouses could be a criminal violation of this statute, and there may be a potential for system operators to be held liable for failing to label users' private email as "filthy".

Finally, the Communications Decency bill attempts to apply to online media many restrictions that do not apply to printed or verbal expression. Transmitting an online version of a "lascivious" book could subject the sender to unreasonable fines and imprisonment, while mailing the book in hardcopy or reading aloud from the book would be protected under the First Amendment.

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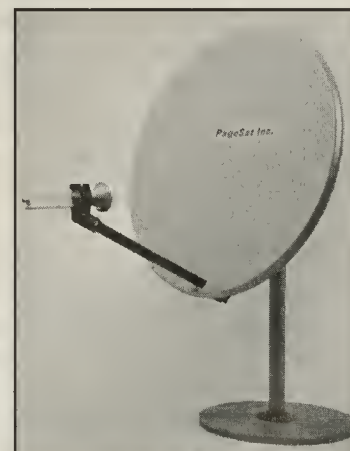
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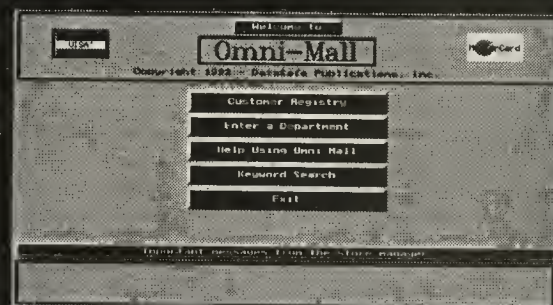
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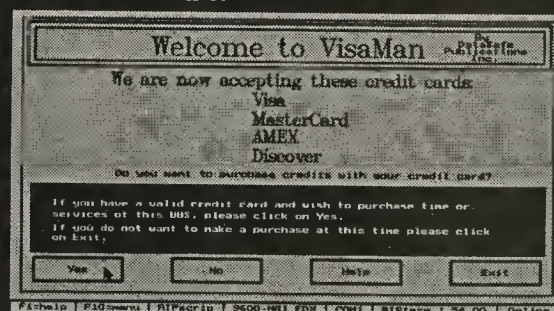


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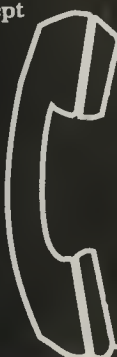
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** The bill is vague and leaves system operators open to prosecution under diverse community standards.*

The bill does not define "obscene" communications, leaving individual states to assert their own definition of community standards and to prosecute system operators maintaining systems anywhere in the country.

_U.S._v._Thomas_, a case currently under appeal in Memphis federal court - in which two system operators running a BBS in California were convicted of obscenity charges after a federal officer dialed in from Tennessee and downloaded material from the BBS - clearly illustrates the danger of leaving terms like "obscenity" undefined in an online world.

Also, passages such as "to provide users with the means to restrict access to communications" (Section 402[d][3][A]) are so vague that the entire Internet is already either in violation or in compliance, depending upon interpretation. Such failures to express clearly the extent and nature of the defenses would allow prosecutors to claim and "prove" virtually any lack of such means to restrict access given a sympathetic court, leaving system operators attempting to comply with the law little guidance on how to avoid being brought up on criminal charges.

** The bill would negate the rights of adults to choose what to read and with whom to associate, as well as the rights of parents to decide what is and is not appropriate for their own children.*

EFF supports the ability of online communities to establish their own standards and to self-regulate content as a more reasonable and realistic model of dealing with potential problems of online subject matter. Parents can direct their children to areas of age-appropriate material online, where participants, including parents, engage in "neighborhood watch" activities to limit possibly offensive content. "Filtering" technologies already in development and use by online services can further help to ensure that parents can restrict their own children's access to electronically-distributed materials.

In general, passing restrictive laws is not the way to solve problems with rapidly evolving technologies like telecommunications - particularly when the laws are based on obsolete regulations of wholly different media. It is ironic that the Gorton/Exon

amendment, which would chill the development of online services and communities, has been attached to a bill deregulating communications infrastructure. This deregulation has been presented as a boost to the pace of development of the very technology to support these services and communities.

EFF believes that parents, not Congress or the FCC, have the right and responsibility to determine what is appropriate for their children to see, and we do not think Congress should make outlaws out of adults for engaging in speech that may not be suitable for minors. As Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter ruled in *_Butler_v._Michigan_* in 1957:

The State insists that, by thus quarantining the general reading public against books not too rugged for grown men and women in order to shield juvenile innocence, it is exercising its power to promote the general welfare. Surely this is to burn the house to roast the pig...The incidence of this enactment is to reduce the adult population of Michigan to reading only what is fit for children.

For amendment text, updates and action alerts, see:

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COMMUNITY STANDARDS IN CYBERSPACE

A Virtual Amicus Brief in the Amateur Action Appeal The Electronic Frontier Foundation

INTRODUCTION

On July 29, 1994, the operators of the Amateur Action bulletin board system ("AABBS") located in Milpitas, California were convicted of a federal crime — distribution of obscene materials across state lines — in the federal District Court for Western Tennessee. The "obscene materials" in question were obtained by a federal law enforcement official in Tennessee, by means of downloading the materials from AABBS onto a computer located in Tennessee. To determine whether or

not the materials in question were "obscene", the court applied the local Tennessee "community standards".

This case presents an opportunity for all those who are concerned with content regulation on the global network to re-think the ways in which that regulation can best be applied to materials accessible through computer networks. The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) believes that these convictions should be overturned, and presents, in this "Virtual Amicus Brief," an analysis of the issues raised by the facts of this case, in the hope of triggering additional discussion and the evolution of more appropriate standards governing the regulation of materials distributed over the global networks.

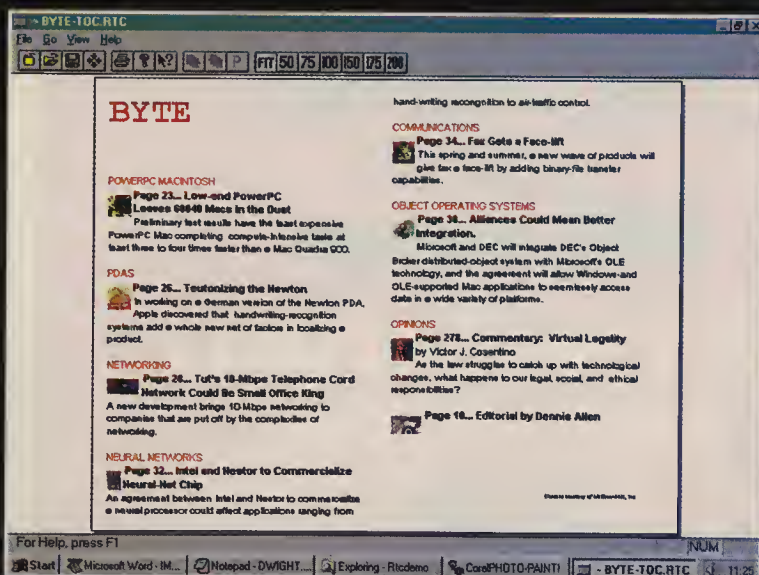
EFF was not involved in the presentation of the case below, has no relationship with the parties, and does not even have access to the full record of the proceedings; we believe, however, that the following fully and accurately states the facts of the case in question.

Robert and Carleen Thomas operated the "Amateur Action" BBS ("AABBS"). Although physically located in Milpitas, California, AABBS was accessible by means of a telephone call from anywhere in the world. AABBS was configured as an "adults-only" system; persons dialing in to AABBS were presented with log-in screens that clearly and unmistakably indicated that the system contained sexually explicit photographs that certain individuals might find offensive. Persons who nonetheless sought access to those materials could do so only after AABBS had verified their age (by means of photo identification and voice verification) and they had paid a membership fee (\$55.00 for 6 months).

In July, 1993, a Tennessee postal inspector, apparently responding to a local complaint, registered with AABBS (using an assumed name), paid the membership fee, and downloaded a number of sexually-explicit files. On the basis of these files, the Thomases were charged with, and ultimately convicted of, "knowingly transport[ing] in interstate or foreign commerce for the purpose of sale or distribution . . . any obscene . . . book, pamphlet, picture, film . . . or any other matter."

The Court Erred in Applying the Tennessee Local Community Standard to Determine Whether or Not the Materials Were Obscene.

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CORRECTIONS

The voice phone number for **The Little Garden** listed in Gordon Cook's "Interview With Tom Jennings" (February, 1995) should have been **415-487-1902**. Thanks to Steve Sanchez of InterNexus (voice 818-889-0255) for this heads-up, and our helpless apologies to the San Francisco lady who is getting all those calls demanding a SLIP connection.

Please address notices of errata, omissions, and other embarrassments to the Editor-at-Fault, **David Hakala**. E-mail david.hakala@boardwatch.com; voice (303)973-6038; fax (303)973-3731.



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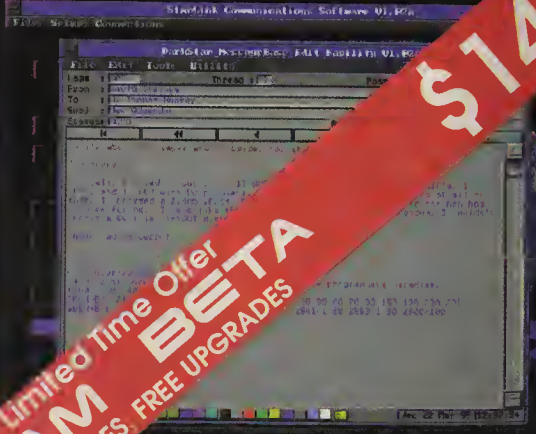
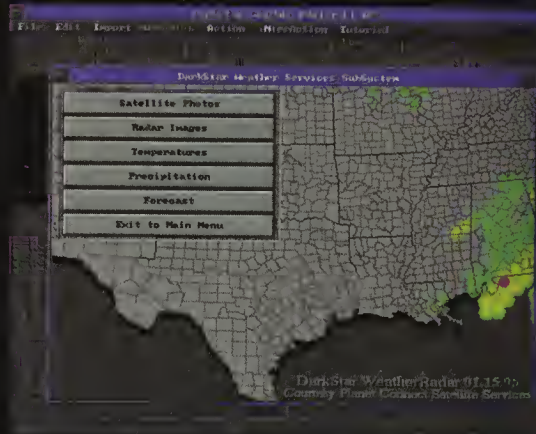
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Before criminal penalties can be imposed on the AABBS operators, the court must determine whether the downloaded files are "obscene." How should the court make this determination?

The Tennessee court applied the "community standards" test first promulgated by the United States Supreme Court in 1973; that is, the court instructed the jury that it was proper to assess the materials in question with reference to the prevailing views in the local (i.e., Tennessee) community. EFF believes that the community standards test can, if properly applied, adequately balance the competing needs of free expression, on the one hand, and community control on the other — but that as applied in this case it disrupts that delicate balance and is destructive of the very principles it was designed to serve.

The use of geographically-based local community standards was designed to encourage diversity of expression and to prevent imposition of a uniform, "lowest common denominator" standard across different communities. The Supreme Court stated this principle as follows:

"[O]ur nation is simply too big and diverse for the Court to reasonably expect that [obscenity] standards could be articulated for all 50 States in a single formulation, even assuming the prerequisite consensus exists. . . . It is neither realistic nor constitutionally sound to read the First Amendment as requiring that the people of Maine or Mississippi accept public depiction of conduct found tolerable in Las Vegas, or New York City. [People] in different States vary in their tastes and attitudes, and this diversity is not to be strangled by the absolutism of imposed [uniformity.]" [Miller v. California, 415 US 15, 33 (1973)]

The community standards test attempts to balance the right of the people of Maine or Mississippi (or Tennessee) to exercise control over the material that enters their communities, against the right of creators and distributors of diverse material to operate freely in those communities where that material is not offensive to prevailing standards. If you "knowingly transport" material to customers in Memphis, you will be held to the prevailing standards in that community; if, however, your material is not suitable for distribution in that community, you may forego such distribution in order to preserve your ability to operate in communities

with different views of what constitutes offensive material.

In the context of the global network, where users around the globe can obtain copies of material posted on a BBS without the BBS operator's intervention or assistance, the justifications for applying local community standards disappear. The AABBS had no physical contacts with the State of Tennessee, its operators had not advertised in any medium directed primarily at Tennessee, they had not physically visited Tennessee, nor had they any assets or other contacts there. The law enforcement official in Tennessee, not the AABBS operators, took the actions required to gain access to the materials and to cause them to be "transported" into Tennessee (i.e., copied to his local hard disk); the AABBS operators may indeed have been entirely unaware that they had somehow entered the Tennessee market and had subjected themselves to the standards applicable in that community.

This case is operationally indistinguishable from one in which a Tennessee resident travels to California and purchases a computer file containing adult-oriented material that he brings back to his home. Whatever sanctions the local community in Tennessee might impose on the purchaser — and we note here that the Supreme Court has consistently held that private possession of obscene materials cannot be outlawed — the seller, who had not "knowingly transported" material into Tennessee, would not have violated federal law. Imposing sanctions on the purchaser in this context is tantamount to restricting the purchaser's constitutionally-protected right to interstate travel.

Application of geographically-based community standards to transmission over the global network, if interpreted to allow conviction on the basis of any access of a BBS by a member of any community with standards that would disapprove of the materials in question, will have the perverse effect of prohibiting, world-wide, anything disapproved in any single territorial location — precisely the kind of uniform national (or global) standard that the community standards test was designed to avoid.

APPROPRIATE TEST

If a Community Standards Test is to be Applied to Determine Whether Materials

Are Obscene, the Community in Question should Consist of Those who Voluntarily Access the Online Forum in Question

If application of local, geographically-based community standards to determine whether material is "obscene" is inappropriate in this new context, how, then, can that determination be made with due regard to the rights of members of various communities to establish their own divergent standards? EFF respectfully submits that the very best source of a definition regarding what constitutes "obscenity", for purposes of determining when U.S. (or other) law should intervene to prohibit electronic distribution of materials, is the standard set by the community of users that, collectively, set the rules applicable to any particular online forum in question. Where, as here, the nature of the materials is clearly disclosed on warning screens encountered as the users access the BBS system, those who sign on — who voluntarily join the community — have already determined that the materials in question do not violate their own sensibilities. If the operators of a BBS system were to post materials that violated the collective standards of that user community, the community in question could quickly correct things by voting with their modems to go elsewhere.

We do not question the right of communities to regulate the contents of the materials to which their members are exposed. Those who wish to associate for religious purposes, for example, should have a right to establish places where materials inconsistent with those purposes are excluded. Those who wish to exchange speech offensive to others should have an ability, indeed a right, to establish spaces where such speech can be exchanged. The question presented in this case is whether those communities and places should be defined exclusively in terms of physical geography.

In an age when computer networks allow the formation of virtual communities, globally, without any significant impact on local, territorial communities, the question answers itself. Any decent regard for preservation of the free flow of information (at least other than information posing more direct physical threats to local communities than those presented in this case) requires protection of the right of each individual to associate with others, to communicate freely with others and, in

effect, to "travel" throughout the online spaces made available by the global networks.

The boundaries between online places and communities are passwords and warning screens. Those boundaries provided, in this case, ample opportunities for anyone in Tennessee to avoid coming into contact with the materials in question. They also provided the opportunity for those who wanted to adopt the standards that would allow the materials in question, a group that includes the Sysops convicted in this case and the other voluntary users of their system, to establish and implement that community standard. Unless the government can establish a more compelling interest, on the basis of which it might prohibit the establishment of such a standard (a showing that could not be made credibly in a context in which California standards do not prohibit the materials in question), the standards of the group that voluntarily joined together to establish and use the BBS system in question should govern.

BURDEN

Sysops Should Not be Required at their Peril to Take More Extensive Steps to Prevent Access to Offensive Materials from any Geographic Locations that may have Local Community Standards that would Disapprove of such Materials

Given that it was lawful for the Sysops convicted in this case to maintain their BBS system physically in the local territorial community where it was located, the only way in which they might have avoided violation of the distribution law, as interpreted here, would have been to establish elaborate technical means to screen incoming calls. This may not even be physically possible, in light of the growing ability to route networked communications through numerous locations. Even if some steps might provide some such screening of calls originating from territories that disapprove of the content in question, however, no obligation to take such steps should be established. Any such doctrine would seriously burden the entire communications infrastructure. It would require Sysops to stay informed regarding the rules of countless local jurisdictions. And it would interfere with the easy interoperability of computer based communications systems.

Cases upholding convictions of those who send physical objects through the US mail are not comparable. In such cases, it is easy for the distributor of material obscene under Tennessee standards to decline to send physical objects to that jurisdiction. In contrast, the Sysops in this case had no way to check in advance where any particular person might be calling from. They did not themselves take the steps required to send the copy to the local jurisdiction. And the installation of mechanisms designed to protect against such an occurrence would be both expensive and infeasible.

The question presented by this case is, in essence, how best to protect Tennessee citizens from what they consider the adverse effects of "obscene" materials while preserving, as fully as possible, the right of groups with differing sensibilities to associate and to form communities that establish and enforce different standards. Ultimately, that question reduces to one involving who should bear the burden of preventing undesired exposure to offensive material — combined with the question how, generally, to preserve the free flow of lawful information and the right of all groups lawfully to associate. EFF submits that the appropriate answer is to be found in exactly the kinds of labelling and password protection schemes found in this case. The Sysop should have the burden accurate to label and appropriately to fence off potentially offensive materials. Thereafter, any local territorial community that wants to enforce its own view of appropriate obscenity standards has a duty to use those tools to just stay away from the offending materials.

IMPACT

There was no Showing and Could not have been any Showing in This Case of any Actionable Adverse Impact on the Local Community.

In applying the Federal law against interstate distribution of obscene material, the U.S. government is seeking to prevent adverse impacts on local communities that stem from causes that have a range and source too great to be handled by the local territorial community. Absent some real or threatened adverse impact on the local community, the rationale for Federal intervention fails. Here, there was simply no such impact.

The fact that someone in Tennessee could call a computer in California, or indeed anywhere else in the world, to access materials the physical sale of which might be prohibited in Tennessee, is neither news nor reason for concern. As noted, a citizen of Tennessee might get on a plane and go anywhere in the world in short order and be exposed to similar material. Accessing materials through a computer screen is most often, and was in this case, an entirely private matter. Even if conducted in groups in a private setting, it is akin to reading books or other materials that might be physically obtained and imported into the local jurisdiction with impunity. It does involve posting signs, entering into sales transactions, establishing a building, or taking other steps of any kind that might even become known to, much less adversely impact upon, the members of the local geographic community.

Acknowledging the lack of impact of the actions involved in this case on the local community, and finding that the Federal government had no legitimate basis on which to prohibit such activity, does not amount to a concession that the local geographic community might not regulate actions that had such an impact. If a local Sysop or user were to sell admission to view the screens in question, for example, or if the local user were to have displayed the screens in question in a store window, then perhaps the local community could impose some sort of regulation. But no such local commercial activity nor any such public exhibition occurred in this case.

CONCLUSION

The convictions in this case were based, so far as we know, entirely on the fact that it was physically possible to access the BBS system from a geographical location the local "community standard" of which would have found the materials thus accessed "obscene". The convictions should be reversed because the materials in question where not shown to be obscene within the meaning of Federal law, appropriately applied to electronic distribution of the kind presented in this case. The standard applicable to determine whether or not someone has distributed "obscene" materials in electronic form in violation of Federal law should be the community standard established inside the online community that, as was the case here, has established its

own boundaries and that gives others sufficient warning to allow them to stay away. Otherwise, federal law would have the perverse effect of imposing unworkable burdens on system operators and all providers of electronic communications and computer based information services, or of imposing a single national (or perhaps even global) standard regarding constitutes obscenity, or of prohibiting an otherwise constitutionally protected free exchange of speech under circumstances in which no significant detrimental impact on local territorial communities could be shown.

FOOTNOTE

The full text of 18 USC 1465 reads as follows:

Transportation of obscene matters for sale or distribution. Whoever knowingly transports in interstate or foreign commerce for the purpose of sale or distribution, or knowingly travels in interstate commerce, or uses a facility or means of interstate commerce for the purpose of transporting obscene material in interstate or foreign commerce, any obscene, lewd, lascivious, or filthy book, pamphlet, picture, film, paper, letter, writing, print, silhouette, drawing, figure, image, cast, phonograph recording, electrical transcription or other article capable of producing sound or any other matter of indecent or immoral character, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

The transportation as aforesaid of two or more copies of any publication or two or more of any article of the character described above, or a combined total of five such publications and articles, shall create a presumption that such publications or articles are intended for sale or distribution, but such presumption shall be rebuttable.

When any person is convicted of a violation of this Act, the court in its judgment of conviction may, in addition to the penalty prescribed, order the confiscation and disposal of such items described herein which were found in the possession or under the immediate control of such person at the time of his arrest.

The postal inspector also used AABBS to order a number of adult-oriented videotapes, which were mailed to a postal box in Memphis, Tennessee. We do not, in this amicus brief, address questions or take any position regarding the propriety of this aspect of the Thomas' prosecution. ♦

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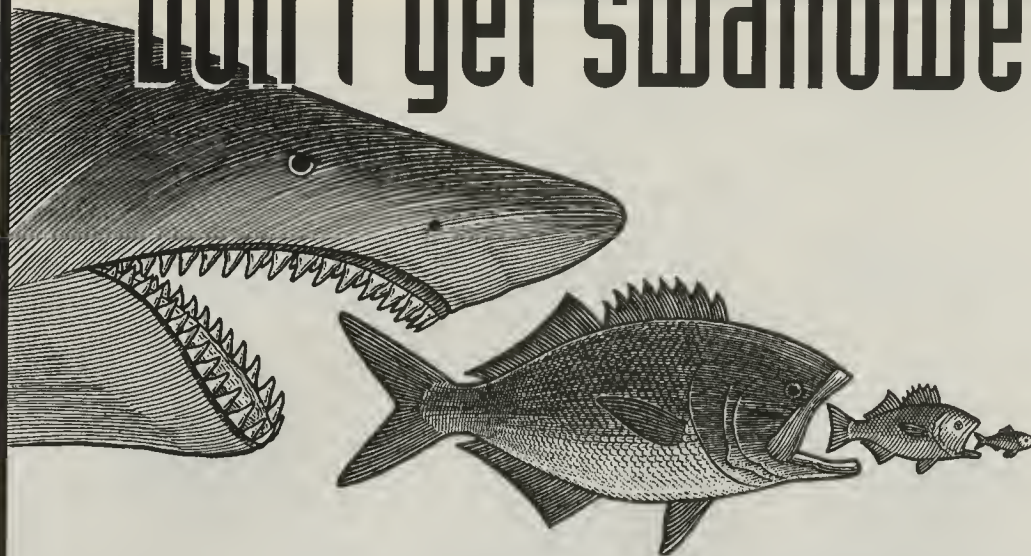


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(305)525-2754
Fax: (305)462-2329
Email: info@aksi.net

SLIP/PPP

\$20 per month
\$112 oer 6 months
\$39 month w/domain name

American Information Systems, Inc.

870 E. Higgins Rd.
Suite 137
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Voice: (708)413-8400
Fax: (708)413-8401
Email: info@ais.net

\$25 per month
\$69 per quarter

Aquila

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Voice: (708)820-0480
BBS: (708)820-8344

SLIP/PPP

\$50 per Month
\$120 per quarter
\$450 per year

Channel1

PO Box 338
Cambridge, MA 02238
Voice: (617)864-0100
Fax: (617)354-3100
BBS: (617)349-1300
Email: info@channel1.com

\$20 per month, 25 hours
\$1 per hour after
\$160 per month dedicated
28,800 slip

CICNet

2901 Hubbard St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Voice: (313)998-6103
Fax: (313)998-6105
Email: info@cic.net

\$89.95 w/Software setup
\$25 w/o Software setup
19.95 per month
\$2.75 hr after 25 hours

CIOE Corporation

207 North St, Suite 102
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Voice: (317)743-3487
BBS: (317)743-4487
Email: info@cioe.com

\$30 per month
\$.65 per hour

Clark Internet Services

10600 Route 108
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BBS: (410)730-9786
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\$1 per hour beyond 6

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\$11.95 month
\$2.75 hour after 4 hours
\$29.95 month
1.25 after 20 hours

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\$34.95 for 25 hours
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\$34.95 one-time startup

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Fax: (020)625-74 35
Email: info@euro.net

Hfl 45,000 monthly
Hfl 195,000 startup

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Global Connect, Inc

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\$25 to \$50 setup
\$2.50 per hour

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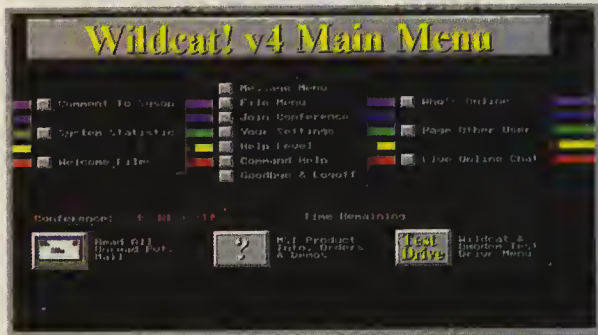
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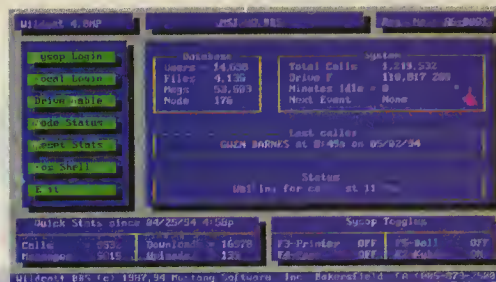
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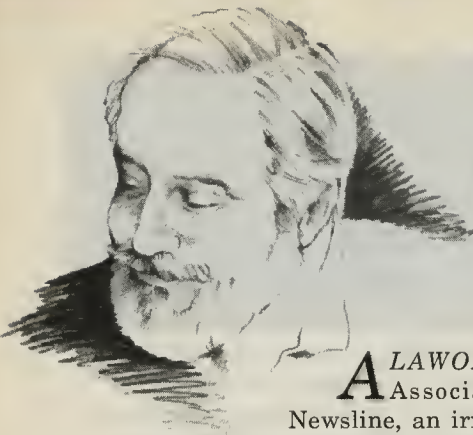
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GOVERNMENT ACCESS by Jim Warren

ALAWON AND THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS "REFORM" ACT

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TELECOM "REFORM," CONGRESSIONAL STYLE

The following excerpts from the March 23rd issue of ALAWON provide important information about federal telecommunications "reform" legislation that may be fast-tracked through Congress by the time this column finally appears in print — and illustrates how congressional action *actually* operates, crucial insights if we hope to participate in the process of our own governance.

Please note how this *actual* process in the Senate compares to Gingrich's assurance in the House that the full text of proposed legislation would be available to the public at the same time it is available to House members. The Republicans are obviously continuing the Democrats' tradition of keeping crucial bill-text secret from *everyone* except their chosen few until it's time to be accepted or rejected by committee vote.

Regarding the telecommunications "reform" act that will have major impacts on every one of us for decades to come, ALAWON reported in late March:

"The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee conducted a mark up session on a new telecommunications bill on March 23 demonstrating bi-partisan support for this latest effort to update the Communications Act of 1934. Committee Chair

Sen. Larry Pressler (R-SD) conducted the mark up, *even though the bill had not been officially filed or even completed*, until the early morning hours of the 23rd."

A mark up session is where the rubber meets the road. This is where committee members go through a bill, line by line, and potentially question it and amend it. Witnesses are invited to be available for members' questions and input, but witness lists are controlled by the committee chair-creature — and that turns out to be a *major* control point.

Of course, if most of the members don't even have copies of the current bill-text, how the hell can they pose cogent questions, much less propose worthy amendments, or even know what they will actually vote for or against?

This absolutely demolishes any notion of a careful — much less public — deliberative process.

ALAWON noted that several senators, "acknowledged the various staff members who had worked long hours into the middle of the previous night."

On the one hand, this illustrates the fact that I have often personally observed, that staffers *do* work monumentally long hours with serious dedication to their work — contrary to the cynical views of many folks who have never been around a state or federal legislative environment.

On the other hand, one must ask: Why the hell can't crucial legislation such as this — that will impact almost every citizen and business in the nation for decades to come — be crafted in a more orderly, more open and less frenetic process? Certainly a public conferencing system — or even a robust internal conferencing system for staff use — could greatly enhance the crafting and quality of legislation.

"Their staff and others had been constantly working on 'negotiating' the language of the bill recently, amidst heavy pressure from the many parts of the telecommunications industry."

Gee, I didn't ever hear of a single public-interest or rate-payer or information-innovator group being invited to participate in those negotiations.

Legislation of the lobbyists, by the politicians, for the corporate giants. Citizens and public interests need not apply.

"Since Pressler scheduled the mark up session a few weeks ago, staff had been working on two discussion drafts, one authored by Pressler and the other by Hollings in the hopes of developing a bi-partisan bill.

"At this writing [dated March 23rd], we [the ALA WO] have seen only the interim 'discussion draft'

Jim Warren
[345 Swett Rd.,
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Dr. Dobb's Journal,
among other things.

from March 21, which was still not the final version given to the committee for mark up. There is still no bill number and the official publication of the bill was not yet available. This report is based on the proceedings at the mark up where there were no draft copies or other materials available for the public."

With this long-standing insiders' legislative process, systematically practiced by both parties, what possibility do mere citizens have of participating in their own governance — in any form other than howling about the final result?

"The bill discussed was substantially the Pressler discussion draft with some elements that grew from the bi-partisan discussions. The legislation follows through on Pressler's commitment to provide for major deregulation and promote competition in all areas of telecommunications. In the days before the mark up there were frequent changes in many parts of the legislation as negotiations [with whom!?] went on to the last minute. Public access clauses, including the parts related to libraries and schools, were rumored to be changed several times this week alone."

WHAT IS "PUBLIC ACCESS?"

This issue of "public access" proposes to impose access mandates on the wired and wireless communications giants that are pleading for — and paying huge contributions for these "reforms" — powerful giants like the local-loop baby Bell monopolies, longline carriers such as AT&T and MCI, the large national cable operators such as TCI with their widespread exclusive local franchises and the FCC-licensed network broadcasters.

These giants have operated as government-granted monopolies for most of the century, and they now want "reforms" so they can compete in providing wired and wireless services, and in providing content — entertainment, games and information as they define it.

Compete with each other, that is!

But the notion of "access" is ambiguous:

A "good" implementation would include "universal access" for *all* information and service providers on a nondiscriminatory basis, to all of the communications channels — not just nondiscriminatory competition between the giants, wherein small, low-cost, high-innovation entrepreneurs and start-ups would be shut out, or forced to subordinate their innovation and economy to one of the giants in order to gain the "equal" access that the giants will share.

The "bad" interpretation is that "public access" is *limited* to "universal service" — that is, all couch potatoes and cash emitters will be provided with whatever content and services the few cooperating giants deign to offer, as properly obedient consumers.

Universal access is of serious concern to a number of senior Senators and Representatives who are in key positions to impose their will on this legislation — notably including members from farm states (such as Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole who has already testified bluntly on this issue) and rural districts who want to be sure that constituents outside of the urban and suburban areas receive more-or-less equal service.

Universal service is not enough. We must assure nondiscriminatory universal access to the communications channels for *all* information providers — not just equal access by the giants to each others' channels.

BBS sysops, public host operators and local newspaper publishers: You better tell all your users and readers — *right now!* — about this need for nondiscriminatory competitive access.

Use it before you lose it.

LIBRARY AND SCHOOL ACCESS

ALAWON also reported that, "Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) cosponsored one amendment addressing universal service for rural public schools and libraries. Part of the discussion of their amendment was about the definition of 'rural' as well as what entities would be covered under their amendment. The Snowe-Rockefeller amendment narrowly passed in a roll call vote.

"Senator John Kerry (D-MA) discussed an anti-redlining amendment to ensure that telecommunications providers could not gerrymander around seemingly less popular communities in developing and providing telecommunications services. This and other amendments may be added on the Senate floor."

INDECENT ACT NOW LIKELY

Addressing the obscene censorship demands of the pandering Senator James Exon (D-NE) — who is not seeking re-election — and Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA), ALAWON reported that they were successful in adding, "an amended version of S. 314, the Exon 'Communications Decency Act of 1995', to the telecommunications legis-

lation. The committee accepted their amendment."

This is the bill that makes it a federal felony with up to a \$100,000 fine or two years imprisonment or both, for anyone using any "telecommunications device" who, "makes, transmits, or otherwise makes available any comment, request, suggestion, proposal, image, or other communication which is obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, or indecent" — although there is an exception for those who make such an "indecent communication for *commercial* purposes," as long as it is restricted to consenting individuals who are 18 years of age or older.

Apparently, if you want to say something erotic to a consenting adult friend, one of you better charge the other some money.

Illustrating how much the public and public-interest groups were shut out of the entire process, the ALAWON newsletter concluded, "Once ALAWON has obtained the final language and a bill number a more complete report will be published," adding,

"ACTION NEEDED: The bill will now go to the Senate floor. All senators should be contacted and asked to support the public access provisions. Senators should also be asked if they could strengthen public access provisions such as incremental cost-based rates for schools and libraries, and universal service and anti-redlining clauses. Watch for more details as they become available."

Of course, by the time you finally receive this in this monthly print periodical, that Senate floor vote will be history.

Thus we see Congress, serving the People. On a platter. ♦

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DOS door support	11 types	2 types	2 types	No	No
FILE.ID.DIZ support	Yes	Extra	Yes	Yes	No
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Offline/Remote file requests	Yes	No	No	No	No
Real-time configuration	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Features and prices compiled from vendor supplied information 2/94, are subject to change without notification. Wildcat!IM, PCBoard/M, MajorBBS, TBBS, QWK, FidoNet, PostLink, RIME, RIPscrip, Novell, and DOS are trademarks or their respective companies. Third party utilities may be required for some message network technologies.
* for 8 nodes Wildcat!IM requires a 250 node license, PCBoard/M requires a 10 node license, TBBS requires a 16 node license.

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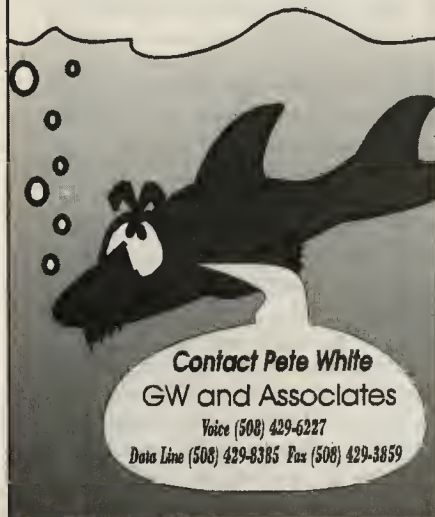


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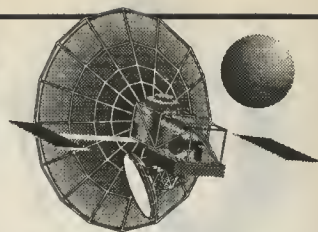
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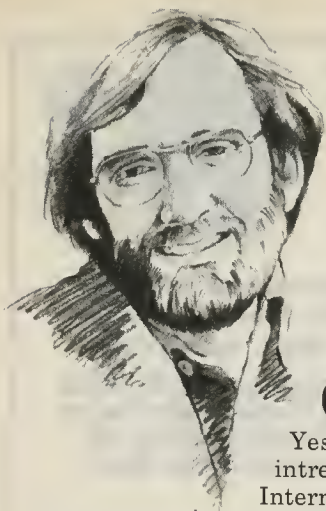
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EDUCATION LINK by Rea Andrew Redd

LUCKY TO BE LINQed: THE POINT-AND-CLICK CLASSROOM

Rea Andrew Redd lives and works in southwestern Pennsylvania where he manages a high school library, teaches European history and Scholastic Achievement Test preparation. On occasion, he reenacts American Civil War battles with the Ninth Pennsylvania Reserves, an historic, military impression unit. E-mail Rea at: red@genesis.duq.edu

Could you imagine the Internet jungle becoming as organized as a library? Yes, you might lose the sense of being an intrepid explorer cutting a path through the Internet jungle, but you would save time and pick up speed if it was less of a wilderness and more of a mall. LINQ™ takes the jungle out of the Internet and makes it more like an educational mall.

LINQ provides filtered education information, forums, software from the Internet and e-mail, and a medium for communication with your school community. LINQ can be an Internet server, which is connected to the Quality Computers, Inc. network at least once a day to receive and send e-mail, to update news and discussion groups and to deliver software. Every computer on your LINQ network, whether at school or home, can access the information at any time just by logging on. The server comes with 200 user addresses, a 28,800 baud modem, 1.2 gigabyte hard drive and 700 megabytes of educational software from the Internet.

Traditional online services are centralized operations; that is, all the information the service offers is kept in primarily one location. You connect to the service using a modem and a regular telephone line, and you pay by the hour. LINQ is anything but traditional.

Unlike most other commercial online services, LINQ is dedicated exclusively to education. With Macintosh, Windows and DOS navigation tools, nearly all novices, students and most experienced Internet users will be happy with LINQ service.

A subscription sets up a LINQ server in your school; anyone on your local area network, or with a computer and a modem at home can use the LINQ server as much as they want with no additional charges. The payment is for getting the information to the school location; once it is there, every user can access it at no charge. That's when the per-user costs drop dramatically. A flat rate LINQ subscription is an advantage in two ways. The more it is used the better value it becomes and since monthly payments are uniform, and not varied by connect time, it is more attractive to budget writers.

Hey! Well, we already have an Internet connection, and we are happy with it, thank you! So we don't...Yes, yes, but the LINQ server becomes a user-friendly front end to the Internet. Students are restricted to using Internet services, which are appropriate to classroom instruction. Do you remember what Education Link discussed in April? Do you have a little trouble keeping students in line while online?

LINQ staff sorts newgroups and bulletin boards to make sure that they are free of explicit language and pornography. The LINQ server screens the Internet to serve children while it also lets the faculty and administrators freely roam cyberspace. Additionally, LINQ has specific information, such as student and faculty message forums and file libraries, which can be delivered via the Internet connection.

What do you get with LINQ? Here's the list: yearly billings, graphical and text-based interfaces, LAN or phoneline connections with maximum speeds limited only by the modem's capacity, Internet mail, education qualified files and kid-safe screening for students and WWW publishing. Real-time chat and WWW requires a direct Internet connection with the school. If your school has a dedicated Internet connection and uses LINQ's nightly dial-up service, an individual account on the central server can provide these features for a reasonable hourly rate.

Most local Internet providers offer a school access for \$15 to \$30 a month; what you get is a shell account with possibly single person access with one e-mail address and one sign-on at a time. LINQ provides e-mail addresses for everyone at the school with multiple simultaneous sign-ons. If a class of twenty needs to enter the Internet, then twenty sign-ons have to be established; with LINQ, the Internet file is accessed once and made available to the twenty students.

Many SLIP or PPP connections are slow and you will get the occasional busy signal. A leased line connection is dedicated and data grade to the school; though fast and reliable the entire Internet is open and students may wander off into non-curricular (and sometimes embarrassing) areas. An ISDN (T1) is similar to the leased line connection and available whenever it's needed; but so far, ISDN is not offered by all access providers and can be more costly than a leased line; it may also have a high initial connection fee. With these things in mind check out LINQ's prices.

If you already have all the hardware, LINQ will sell you the server software with 200 user I.D.s and capabilities for up to 20 users to access the LINQ server simultaneously for about \$800 through August 1, 1995. If you need the hardware, LINQ will sell you the server software, 200 I.D.s, 20 user access capability, a 1.2 gigabyte hard drive, a 28,800 baud modem and cable, and 700MB of pre-installed Internet software for about \$2,000 until August. There is a stepped-down bundle for about \$1,000. If

your school has a dedicated T1 or 56K line, a software upgrade to take advantage of the LINQ as an Internet screen sells for about **\$1,000**.

Additional user I.D.'s are **\$1** each. Simultaneous user capability upgrades are available in 10, 20 and 30 unit bundles. The membership fee is **ten cents** a month per user with a 200 user minimum; the good news is that July and August are free months. That's an annual budget of **\$200**. Don't overlook the fact that the school must supply the server machine. LINQ prefers the Power Macintosh 7100 or the Quadra 630; you can get started with an SE/30. There was no real mention of compatibility with IBM computers in any of their literature so you might want to find that one out on your own.

Well, there is much more to find out about LINQ; the system is marketed by Quality Computers, 20200 Nine Mile Road, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080. Pick up the phone and dial **800-777-3642** or send a fax to **810-774-2698**. LINQ software is licensed from ResNova, Inc., 5011 Argosy Drive #13, Huntington Beach, CA 92649.

FROM THE E-MAIL BAG

jim.thompson@wnsnews.com is looking for a place on the Internet where he can telnet to in order to receive NYSE and NASDAQ stock quotes, preferably free of charge. If you know of any, send a list to Jim Thompson, and while you are at it, e-mail the same list to me.

John McNamara is looking for any Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) on the Internet or the WWW; he would like to gopher with kindred spirits on this topic. You can e-mail John by sending a message to **macwarp@ix.netcom.com**.

Robin Mercer of The Ellenboro School, North Carolina uses the Learning Link System, which is free to educators to ride the Internet. Robin has access to telnet, gopher and WWW using LYNX and is reluctant to give up this access for PBS online (see February's *Boardwatch Magazine*, Education Link column). Robin is wondering if the other Learning Link sites have these same services or is it unique to The Ellenboro School. The school is located in one of those many rural pockets in

the United States with no local access phone numbers for any of the major commercial online services. Losing Learning Link may jeopardize their Internet access. Robin would appreciate e-mail from other LYNX and PBS users.

Send your e-mail messages to Robin at the school's address: **e810344a@unctv.org**. The March Education Link column describes a rural oriented government lobby, focusing on electronic access issues. The Organization Concerned About Rural Education deserves your attention and support concerning problems which may arise from your school geographic location and the federal government's development of equal access to the Internet.



MEMO FROM THE DEEP POCKETS DEPARTMENT

The Federal Commerce Department's National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) has awarded **\$24.4 million** to projects, which foster school and community links via the Internet. Recipients of Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance (TIIA) grants must also raise matching funds, which the NTIA hopes will encourage more private sector partnerships with the public sector. One of the funded 1994 projects was the tri-state education ini-

tiative between Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee to improve the information infrastructure.

Another funded project made Maryland teachers happy; K-12 schools will begin developing an ecology/science network through the University of Maryland and will build a demonstration Internet Resource Center with linkage to the Chesapeake Bay Observing System, which monitors the ecological health of the bay.

Also, Los Angeles County received funds to establish a communication network that will allow local-Cal access to the L.A. Freenet from schools and low-income residents. Other monies went to over 500 Native American tribal governments around the United States, which are now making plans for building a electronic network linking them together. Initial linkage will occur in six areas of tribal concern: education, cultural preservation, telemedicine, child care, economic development and government.

To receive descriptions of the 1994 funded projects or application requirements and procedures, contact the U.S. Department of Commerce, NTIA, 24th and Constitution NW, Washington, D.C. 20230 or send your questions to **pdard en@ntia.doc.gov**.

STUDENT SCHOLARS/AUTHORS

The National Student Research Center (NSRC) in Louisiana has published the latest issue of *The E-Journal of Student Research*. Located at Mandeville Middle School, the NSRC houses an electronic library, which can be accessed in America Online's Electronic School House by using the keyword: ESH. Teachers and students hoping to publish projects developed in a classroom setting may submit them to the screen address NSRC MMS in America Online. You may fatmail questions to the director, John I. Swang at NSRC, Mandeville Middle School, 2525 Sout Street, Mandeville, LA 70448 or give him a phone call at **504-626-5980** or **504-626-8778**. His e-mail address is **nsr-cmms@aol.com**. ♦

GADGETS & GIZMOLOGY

by Gary W Funk
Gizmologist

SHARP ZAURUS ZR - 5000 PDA

You see them in the ads. You see them in the stores. But do you actually see someone use one? I'm talking about Personal Digital Assistants or PDAs for short. For several years, I have carried around a small black notebook for keeping names, addresses, phone numbers, contacts, login names and other such information that I don't want to forget. The information I want to keep gets written on little pieces of paper, stuffed in my pocket, and if I am lucky, makes it to the notebook where it gets lost forever.

Well, Internet World '95 was upcoming and we were getting many requests for meetings from vendors and exhibitors. I received phone calls, faxes, email, and even postal letters expressing a desire to set up an interview time to meet with me. I can hardly pick my wife up at work on time so I had no idea how to manage over 20 meetings with vendors.

For the past three months I had been trying to get Hewlett-Packard to send me one of their HP 200XL Palmtop PCs. I think I will have better luck getting Bill Gates on the phone, which, by-the-way, I am also working on, than ever getting anything out of HP or their public relations firm. It took six weeks just to get a color slide of the 200XL so I had pretty much given up on the idea when I started seeing ads for the new Sharp Zaurus. I looked at the ads and finally went to see the product at a retail outlet.

I am happy to say that at this time, the Zaurus is with me almost 24 hours a day. I found my little black notebook and entered all the information from it into the Zaurus. It took very little time to enter all the information, and it was easy with the use of the touch screen and keyboard. I also entered all the contacts and meetings for Internet World '95 and was able to reschedule two appointments that I failed to realize were at the same time.

While the Zaurus has many features, some are more useful than others. The main reason I see for having a PDA is to keep track of information. This is done with the help of built-

in productivity software. These modules include an Activities database for keeping track of appointments and all mighty "things to do", a Contacts database to keep names, phone numbers, and email addresses, and a Data Files database that can be used to keep a database of information.

The Activities module keeps track of your appointments by date and time, and show the list of "to do" items for that day. There is a sliding time bar that shows the appointments and free time. It will also let you know if there is a conflict where you have scheduled two meetings at the same time. There are several views that can be used such as Day, Week, Month, and Weekly Graph. The Day view shows you what is scheduled and when. The Weekly Graph view shows you at a glance how busy you are for the entire week by displaying seven daily time bars indicating the appointments.

The Contacts module is top rate. It has fields for all the normal items such as name, address, and several phone numbers, but it also has two e-mail address fields, and four user defined fields. This is useful for sending Internet e-mail with the Zaurus. The information is normally indexed on the name, but can be indexed on any of the 16 fields. There are also three separate databases in which you can keep different sets of contact

information. A filter is also available so you can limit the names which show in the view.

Another useful module is the Data Files database. I found this very useful for storing the login names and password of the many bulletin boards and online services I call. I was a little worried about doing this at first until I found out I can password protect the data stored in the Zaurus. I am now able to use someone else's computer and software to logon and check my mail on these services without calling home to ask my wife what the password is.

Other modules found on the Zaurus are Notes, where you can enter notes directly on the screen with the stylus. This is



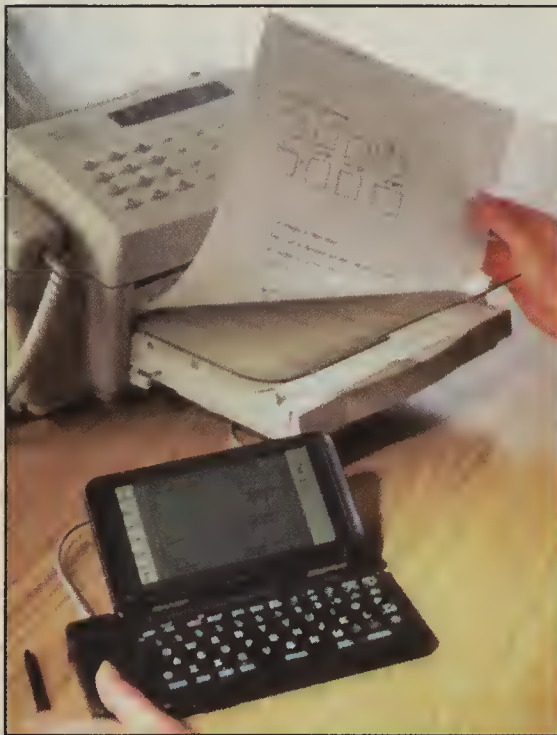
useful for very quick items that you want to record and type in later. A Documents module which is a real word processor with many of the features of 'Real' word processors, including a spell checker. A World Clock which will help you keep track of time as you travel, and a calculator is provided for those of us that can't add or subtract.

Two other useful modules include a Fax and Terminal. While the Fax is send only, it is very easy to compose an item and then fax it anywhere you need it to be. I was able to sit in a meeting, take notes on what needed to be done, and then fax it from the nearest phone plug back to the office. By the time I returned to the office, most of the items on my fax had been completed.

There is also a terminal so you can log onto you BBS while you are away and check mail. I have used this several times from my desk to log into the BBS and answer mail while the computer was 'busy' doing database work. The built in terminal software supports TTY and VT100, and the only real drawback I found is the screen is only 65 characters wide. It reminds me of the TRS-80 days.

The Zaurus has a built-in serial port that is used to attach either the Fax modem or special serial cable, on the left side. On the right side is a PCMCIA slot that will accept a Type I or Type II PC Card. Several SRAM and Flash Memory Cards are supported as well as PCMCIA modems from AT&T, Megahertz, Motorola, and others. An infrared port is built in that allows the Zaurus to communicate with another Zaurus, the Sharp Wizard OZ-6500 or OZ-9000 series, or even a printer with the optional CE-IR1 wireless interface.

Other optional accessories for the Zaurus include the CE-IR4 High Speed Digital ASK Wireless Interface for PCs and Macintosh computers. This lets your Zaurus communicate directly with your desk top computer to transfer meeting and contact information. And for you desktop junkies, there is also an external power supply to keep the unit from draining the batteries.



CompuServe has also announced the CompuServe Companion for Zaurus. With this module, users will be able to send and receive electronic mail through CompuServe. The first release is expected to provide access to email, financial information, news, travel and weather information and be available in the second half of 1995.



Not to be outdone, AT&T has also teamed up with Sharp to provide AT&T EasyLink Services. Zaurus users will be able to access the AT&T network to send fax documents, and to exchange email with most public networks, including the Internet.

And even Motorola wants a piece of the action. By plugging Motorola's NewsCard Wireless Data Receiver into the PCMCIA slot, Zaurus users will be able to take advantage of the one-way wireless messaging system provided by Motorola. This is the world's first wireless receiver modem in a PCMCIA card format. With the NewsCard, users can receive messages, email, news, and even stock information.

So while the Zaurus may be new on the market, it seems to have a lot of backing. And who knows, there may even be new products for Sysops and BBS users.

The Zaurus is small enough at 6.75 inches by 4 inches by 1 inch that it really can fit in a coat pocket. I have even placed it in my hip pocket but I do advise against sitting while the unit is pocketized. It weighs in at 13.85 ounces and the Fax modem adds another 1.05 ounces. The two AA batteries will last about 60 hours and are real easy to change.

The Sharp Zaurus model ZR-5000FX is priced at 849.99 and comes with the CE-FM4 Fax modem.

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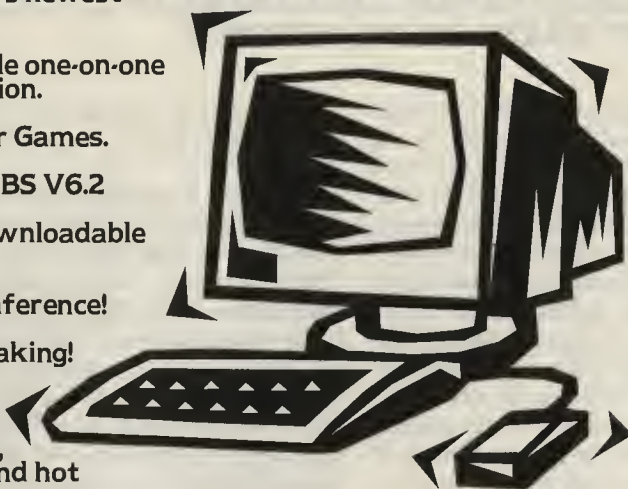
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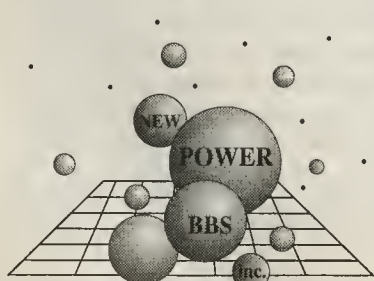
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LEGALLY ONLINE

by Lance Rose

POWER GRABS ON THE INTERNET

Lance Rose is an attorney practicing high-tech and information law in Montclair, N.J. with the firm Lance Rose & Associates. He can be found on the Internet at elrose@well.com, and on CompuServe at 72230,2044. He is also author of NetLaw, the legal guide for online service providers, published by Osborne/McGraw-Hill and available at better book stores everywhere.

The notion of the Internet as a "commons" has a deep grip on today's online users. It is a vast pool of talk and data, endless yet fully shared, and everyone must behave correctly (take your nastiness to the flame room, please).

This concept found its early formal expression in the classic Internet "acceptable use policies," now slowly fading from view. The most famous offense against propriety so far was the green card ambulance-chasing of lawyer/hucksters Martha Canter and Lawrence Siegel. It was punished in the online manner by the folks on the Net, by a show of mass ill will and by "cancelmoose" deletion of the offenders' subsequent attempts to communicate online.

The problem with the "commons" notion for the online world is that it posits cyberspace as a zero-sum game. If everyone doesn't play nicely, then everyone must suffer, unless the offenders can be stopped or ousted. This scenario plays out naturally in the physical world, where livable real estate is finite and at a premium. But online, there are other rational choices: ignore the offenders, or set up your own BBS and keep out the riffraff. You can set up a vast online social space if you'd like and leave the troublemakers outside, scratching at the door. This strategy is employed often enough. Gentle souls and Nazis/Skinheads alike set up private clubs for their own kind, and avoid wasting time dallying with those whom they rub the wrong way.

However, rolling your own living space might be too creative for some of the recent arrivals to the Net. When they see something they don't like, they'll be darned if they don't try to take down the whole Net to stop it. Thus begins the long-term struggle for online dominion: between those who want continuing freedom to say what they wish in the Internet "commons", and those who want to shut people up and shut them out of the commons.

Instead of building themselves a decent private place online, the control addicts will seek to take over the public areas of the Net itself so they can push out those they find offensive. The weapons of the would-be power-mongers of the Net are land-based legal systems — laws, and the physical courts and cops that enforce them by taking your computer and putting your body in stir. The people who want to keep their freedom in the public areas of the Net have their weapons too — encryption-based systems creating user anonymity, plus their own legal strate-

gy of asserting such quaint notions as freedom of speech and privacy in the courts and assembly halls.

We are now witnessing two early blasts by groups that would seek to control the common areas of the Internet. The first, the recently revived Communications Decency Act bill now in Congress (also known as the Exon Amendment), is an effort to build a legal superstructure, complete with FCC enforcement, for controlling obscene and indecent speech in U.S.-controlled areas of the Internet. The other is the series of efforts by the Church of Scientology to control the spread of its religious texts on the Internet by invoking existing copyright and other laws to restrict online activities physically. In broad outline, these efforts are very similar.

In each case, there is a group new to the Internet: technophobes and fearful parents, in the case of the Communications Decency Act; Scientologist leaders, in the case of the Church. In each case, the new group "discovered" the offensive materials when they came online, although in fact such materials could be found online for years; the groups in question just did not care about the online activity until they were told by the media that the Internet is the place to be. And finally, after each group discovered the particular materials it found offensive, their reaction was anything but modest: they attempted to seize control of the Internet and snuff out the offending matter and the people that generate it. Don't be misled by the tense: these are both ongoing battles, with some of our presumed basic Net freedoms hanging in the balance.

THE SWIFT REVIVAL OF THE EXON AMENDMENT

Some readers may recall our discussion several months back regarding the Exon Amendment, a proposed anti-pornography law for the Internet and all online services. It first surfaced in the 1994 Congress, attached to the would-be telecommunications reform bill that was dropped before it could be brought to a vote. Despite the huge burden the Exon Amendment would have imposed on online speech and entertainment, the mainstream media was so blinded by the bright light of O.J. that they barely noticed its existence, and the populace was kept almost entirely ignorant.

In the early days of the 1995 Congress, Senator James Exon of Nebraska brought forth his anti-pornography bill once more, in the same exact form as before. This time, though, the mainstream press

was galvanized, and paid lots of attention to Exon's proposal, much of it negative. It seems as though the tide of public opinion is turning. Indeed, shortly before this column was completed, Sen. Exon was quoted as having doubts himself about the passage of the bill. So is it now dead in the water?

Hardly. From here, Exon's expressions of doubt look like deliberate misdirection, an attempt to lure his opponents into relaxing while he gathers together his own political forces to push the bill through. The forces on Exon's side for an online pornography control bill are traditionally powerful: the religious right, which never shrank before from using the political process to impose its preferences on others, and now sees a new, dangerously uncontrolled regime arising in the wilds of cyberspace; and fiercely protective parents, who bought multimedia computers and modems for their kids for Christmas, and are now scared that their kids are being exposed to a world of pornography and pedophiles online. As a Senator from a state slow to pick up on computers and communications, and hence more fearful of technology and its implications, Exon personally stands to make a big hit with the home crowd with this bill.

The opposition is powerful as well, and forms a rather weird coalition. First, we have most or all of the telecom companies, online services, software companies and other big businesses that plan on making hay online. To them, the burden of administering online pornography to meet government requirements is just a drag on investment, profits and attraction of customers to online services. Their will carries with it the votes and sentiments of many conservatives, who want to keep future investment opportunities unencumbered. Then, we have all the online civil rights and privacy groups — The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), Voters Telecom Watch (VTW), the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT), and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), among others — who see the Exon bill as a raw restraint on freedom with little to recommend it. So we have a merger, this time around at least, of big business and grassroots civil libertarian activism dedicated to killing the bill.

With such forces at work, it is difficult

to say who will prevail. Instead of a pure win or loss, there will likely be some compromise, an armed truce. There is already some confused movement in this direction. The Exon Amendment was just cleared by committee to go to the Senate floor. Before that happened, though, it was softened up a bit by the committee staff, reportedly in some 11th hour wrangling with attorneys for one of the national online services. As modified, the bill is now very complicated. In fact, it's not clear which online transmission of adult materials would be legal, and which illegal, if it was passed today in its current form. Which itself demonstrates one of the more glaring features of rule-making designed to control the Net: the would-be controllers do not sufficiently understand the online environment to draft laws that apply meaningfully to that environment. I sincerely hope that if we end up with a law based on the Exon Amendment, someone who can both write in English and understands how messages move in an online environment gets a crack at how that law is written.

One part of the modified Exon bill is still clear — the existing regulation of telephone sex services would be expressly extended to all kinds of digital and online communications, in all media. The complicated part is the proposed new set of rules for systems that dare to grant access to "lewd" and "lascivious" materials. These terms are not legally defined, and may not stand up to the legal challenge that they are too vague to be permitted as a restraint on speech under the 1st Amendment. In addition, there is a thoroughly hedged and partially overlapping set of statutory defenses and exceptions that would save online services from responsibility for pornographic materials that pass unseen through their systems, but also leave hard to pinpoint loopholes in the protection. This scheme would leave online services more uncertain about the legality of adult materials than if there was no bill at all.

Exon's proposed national legislation does have a possible silver lining. It can be used to perform some judo, and achieve needed unification of varying state laws on adult materials. The recently modified bill actually contains a first feeble stab at this — a provision that would make the proposed federal decency legislation override conflicting state laws. This would help online ser-

vices gauge the legality of carrying adult materials according to a single federal legal standard, instead of the shifting laws of 50 states. Other such unifying provisions could be added to the Exon bill if the compromising with opposition groups continues: any online service charged with violating the decency law could be sued only in its own state, instead of any state where the police feel like taking them to court; in online obscenity cases, the "community standards" used to determine whether the charged content is obscene would be based on the online service's own community, instead of the complaining party's own land-based community, which might be thousands of miles away; and an online service could be charged only once for a given set of practices — multiple prosecutions would not arise just because the claimed violating materials were distributed by the online system to multiple states or complainants.

As this is written, the push to simply kill the Exon bill is stiffening among the civil rights groups. They think they might get it knocked out simply as a by-product of Congressional dynamics: if the Exon bill is perceived by phone and cable companies as threatening their enormous telecom deregulation bill to which it's attached, they'll lop it off fast. On the other hand, the forces that might support the Exon bill may rise quickly at any time. This could lead to a far-ranging public debate on the wisdom of communications decency legislation, which in turn could lead anywhere from killing the bill to making it into a real clamp-down on adult materials online. Hmmm, a real public debate? That almost looks a little like democracy.

THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY'S ONLINE CRUSADES

The other on-going effort to control the Net does not seek to change any laws, but to use the existing legal system to prevent certain information from being sent around the Internet. In particular, the Church, started by writer J. R. M. Ron Hubbard a few decades ago, is seeking to prevent transmissions of written materials that it claims are copyrighted and, in some cases, confidential property of the Church. Its efforts have led to several episodes already famous on the Net.

The first major episode was a relatively

modest attempt to close down the Usenet newsgroup named *alt.religion.scientology*. Apparently, some people were saying things the Church did not like in that very public and unmoderated forum, and the Church formed the impression it could just end the entire worldwide discussion. It went online and claimed, in another newsgroup devoted to the general subject of newsgroups, that *alt.religion.scientology* was not properly authorized either as an official Usenet discussion topic, or as an official voice of the Church. This was not very persuasive, however. No one on the Net made a move to stifle or end the newsgroup offensive to the Church. Stung but hardly bowed by this astonishing disobedience, the Church moved to a more hard-line strategy.

One person in particular, a man named Dennis Ehrlich, was giving the Church particular problems. He left the Church (though the Church is reluctant to recognize such things) over a dozen years ago, and has devoted much of his energy since then to criticizing and ridiculing it in public. Ehrlich rose fairly high in the Church hierarchy before the break, so he had received access to a large amount of written materials belonging to the Church, including stuff the Church fastidiously keeps secret under lock and key. Recently, Ehrlich developed a new tactic in his public battles with the Church: posting large amounts of Church-owned text verbatim in Internet newsgroups, often with some commentary attacking the Church. Given his knowledge of the hot buttons of Church officials, this move was bound to annoy. With one move, he was not only attacking the Church in public, but making free with materials the Church zealously protects against all unauthorized use, as evidenced by the many cases it has brought over the years.

In February 1995, the Church made its countermove against Ehrlich. It obtained a court order to seize all materials from Ehrlich's home in California relating to various copyright and confidential rights violations claimed by the Church. It entered Ehrlich's home, with police assistance, and copied materials from his hard drive to obtain evidence of the claimed violations. Apparently the computer was left with Ehrlich, though he claims that when the Church made its copies, they affect-

ed the disk in some fashion that made the computer inoperable afterwards. That was not all. The Church also obtained a temporary restraining order against further violations, not only against Ehrlich, but also against the local BBS and major Internet service provider, Netcom, which were providing him access to the Internet.

Outraged, the BBS operator and Netcom immediately moved to have the restraining order lifted, and the judge did lift it, recognizing their distance from the squabble between Ehrlich and the Church, and their legally protected role as carriers of free speech. Thankfully, the court did not feel it was the job of these online systems to monitor online traffic to make sure their users were not performing copyright infringement or other naughty acts. The order remained in place against Ehrlich, though with a loophole. Ehrlich claimed that his use of copyrighted Church materials was for satirical purposes, and was thus permitted under the fair use exception of copyright law. Without examining the matter at the length it requires, the court made clear in its order that while Ehrlich could not violate the Church's copyright, this did not prevent him from fair use of the Church's materials as permitted by law, since fair use is not a copyright infringement.

As might have been predicted, Ehrlich went right back out on the Net with his verbal attacks on the Church, replete with more postings of their written materials. This time, he made sure to point out that it is all "fair use". The Church retaliated with a motion to hold Ehrlich liable for contempt of court, claiming that Ehrlich was disingenuously using the courts recognition of valid fair uses of copyrighted materials as a pretext for further copyright violations, instead of genuine fair use. A hearing will have been held on this point by the time this column sees print. The Church does have a good case on at least some of the postings by Ehrlich — in which he posted several pages of Church materials on the Net without his own changes or comments. Unless he claims that Church materials are self-satirizing, which courts are unlikely to accept because of the disrespect they imply toward copyright holders, it would be very hard for Ehrlich to prove that these posts are satire-style fair use.

The Church's third move was the most riveting to Net denizens. Many of the copyrighted and confidential Church materials moving through the Net, whether originating with Ehrlich or others, were entering Usenet newsgroups through an anonymous remailer service, which hides the identity of the person who originally sent the e-mail. Not deterred by this popular method for posting supposedly untraceable messages both publicly and privately, the Church managed to have a raid performed on the offices of Penet, Inc. in Finland, which was the sender of the problem postings, and is also the most popular anonymous remailer used in Usenet under the server name *anon.penet.fi*. The Church did this through a chain of connections from the Los Angeles Police Department, to Interpol, to local Finnish police, who proceeded on charges that stolen materials were being broadcast from Penet, Inc. (the charges were later changed to infringement of copyrighted materials). When the raid occurred, Penet, Inc. made a deal with the authorities — it would turn over its records relating to the sender who was responsible for the postings related to the Church, and the authorities would leave the rest of the system alone. Thus the records were turned over, though it's not clear right now whether the police received information on the identity of the person posting the problem messages or just the address of a previous remailer. In the meantime, the Finnish police supposedly issued a statement that they decided that Penet, Inc. is involved in no wrong doing.

This assault on an anonymous remailer, and actually obtaining log records on its users, stunned the Net community. Many of those, who want their privacy online, had started feeling secure with anonymous remailers as an effective protection, only to see that a simple police raid can turn the tables. Part of the problem here was a foolish over-confidence in technology as a sufficient protective device in itself. As computer crackers know, when a direct frontal attack against computer security does not work, you can often achieve success by "social engineering," such as fooling inside employees into giving you access to information over voice phone, and by poring through the target system owner's garbage dumpster. The police raid was simply an institutional variant on the same set of techniques — if the netheads try to keep you out

by using anonymous remailers, you simply bust the service providing anonymity. It not only gets the desired information, it makes would-be anonymous remailers far more wary about pursuing an occupation that leads to police raids.

Inevitably, the Net will respond to this incident with procedures and technology designed to prevent a repeat of the Penet raid. It will be interesting to see what these are, especially if the increased protection requires more work on the part of those who want anonymity, thus adding to the cost of remaining anonymous online. Penet's practice of keeping logs of transmissions will certainly be revisited. As it was, they were forced into a terrible choice: try to protect the guy who relied on their anonymity services at the only time that anonymity really makes a difference (when the cops are after you), or turn over all its records for everyone using the system? They made the choice they had to, but the lesson should be instructive. If Penet has any sense of responsibility to those who use its services, it will need to assure this never happens again. What good is my anonymity if it doesn't count when the officials threaten

the remailing service? Beyond technological and Net-culture adjustments, we can expect to see some activity to get the laws changed in Finland and elsewhere, to recognize the valuable social function of anonymity and make it far more difficult to legally raid an anonymity service. Reportedly, the Church has approached at least one more anonymous remailing service since that time, though not through a police raid (yet).

For all the world, it looks like the Church is engaged in a far-ranging exploration of just how far you can use legal techniques to control message traffic on the Internet, Net veterans and their newbie acolytes scoff at the notion of imposing control over Internet messaging, but it's not clear to me that they're right. Talk is cheap. Up to now, that's all we've had on the subject of the supposed uncontrollability of the Internet. Now that the Church is forcing the rubber to meet the road, we'll see how much messaging freedom survives. The prospect of identifying those who post offending messages, and the fear of police raids against anonymous message posters and the Internet services that would assist them, could go a far way toward

reducing the amount of anonymous public posting we see on the Net, especially messages that would tweak the rich or powerful.

Whatever the upshot of the Exon proposal and the Church of Scientology crusade, these are only the opening chapters in a seesaw battle for Net control that may occupy us for the next few decades. As society and culture assimilate the Net, our attitudes as a group will evolve, leading to various calls for increased and decreased freedom in different aspects of Net activity, and attempts to enshrine those freedoms or limits on freedom in laws. There will also be contests on the practical level, pitting powerful organizations seeking to control information flow based on property interests or other goals, against an evolving network of online guerrillas who want to preserve their ability to operate without official sanction online. It's way too early to predict a winner. More likely, we will see increasingly complex and subtle battles over Net control and freedom, where no one clearly wins most of the time, and everyone protects their turf. I'm getting out some popcorn. ♦

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MACINTOSH NEWS

by Bill Gram-Reefer

KEEP ON ROCKING IN THE eWORLD

Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of WORLDVIEW, specializing in connectivity and communications. Bill has been writing about Macintosh computers since 1984. E-mail Bill at: reefer@netcom.com

Can't find a better man or don't know what to do with the bugs in your shoes? Then check out Music Universe located in the Arts and Entertainment Pavilion of eWorld, Apple's new and very commercial online service. MU is for the music fan who knows that Rust Never Sleeps and wants to keep up with their favorite artist, new releases and tour dates; musicians looking for a band; the songwriter who wants to find a publisher; recording engineers shopping for a new mixing board; the managers and recording label execs looking for new talent. Since, many serious musicians (hackers of sound instead of code) now use computers and probably have modems, MU on eWorld is on its way to providing a comprehensive online music service for an international audience.

MU is "published" on eWorld courtesy of BAM Media, publishers of BAM Magazine, Beat Attitude and Music, and MicroTimes. Not just for the fan, MU includes info from such sources as BAM and other publications, information from record compa-

ny CD cover art, photos and sound samples of items being reviewed in the Music Press section.

Clicking on the Backstage Pass will take the user into an area that touches on all aspects of the music business. In Trade Secrets, for instance, you'll find material by, for and about artists, including record companies, managers, video directors and music media. There are also tour itineraries, multimedia projects, new releases, artist Bios and more. Trade Secrets, according to Lorry Fleming, BAM Media coordinator for MU, is "destined to be an exciting source of up-to-the-minute information that fans and industry people alike will look forward to exploring regularly."

The discussion board within Trade Secrets will allow users to create discussion threads and ask specific questions of people within the industry. MU promises that if the right person isn't online to answer, MU will find the answer for you, or refer you to the correct resource or person. In contrast to some tech support policies, no question will go unanswered. So if you want to know the ABCs of how to put together a demo tape and who's the best person to send it to at Arista Records, this is the place. The multimedia library in Trade Secrets Jukebox arena will provide video clips, artwork, sound-bits of new records and works in progress. Vigil A and R representatives will scour this area to check out demo tapes to find the next hot sound.

Gear Up, another area within MU, will be the place for the serious musician, the media pro or even the technologically impaired who need help. Here, you'll find info on musical instruments, studios and studio gear, troubleshooting, MIDI technology and whatever else is needed to make this the online place to be for musical gear. The Patch Bay discussion area will get you in touch with users as well as manufacturers, while the Multimedia Emporium promises to be the pro musician's toy box, where you'll be able to find sound files, sequences, loops and hundreds of MIDI files.

Finally, BAM Media will provide the MU Guide for the user who wants to get information quick or to learn where to go within MU to get specific answers or info. Other Guides include the Club Guide for dates and venues from around the country; the Open Mic for live group Chat; and Samplings, a shortcut to the multimedia libraries found in each of the three main areas. Clicking here will take you straight to the Jukebox, Clips and Multimedia Emporium.

With content like this, it follows that many folk in



nies, radio stations, major music conventions, recording studios, and hopefully, someday, pro-audio equipment dealers and manufacturers. MU also hopes to provide the services that generate a strong sense of community for those who actually work in the music business.

In the Music Press section, users can find reviews, articles and interviews from leading media outlets, plus reference books and guides to every genre of music. Upcoming titles covering music/pop culture will also be previewed. The Sound Off area is a place for users to share opinions and views, or to ask questions about their favorite performers. Another feature will be the multimedia library where users can download sound and visual clips, magazine and

the biz will want to take advantage of using MU to get their message to users: publicists, studios, gear manufacturers, each having the opportunity to get out of print and into the power of multimedia presentations only available via computer and telecommunications on eWorld.

Music Universe (MU)/BAM Media is at 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill, CA. 94523; 510-934-3700 voice; 510-934-3958 fax; Lorry MU@eWorld general info; Bonnie MU@eworld music industry are; Steve MU@eworld press/publishing; Ed MU@eworld tools and technology, i.e. MIDI, pro audio and instruments.

Other than MU and a handful of other semi-useful sections like SABRE and BMUG's rated shareware software, eWorld content is for the most part not all that compelling. This is a shame, especially considering the advanced technical infrastructure Apple is developing. Remember the bit about the "B Ship" in Douglas Adams' *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*, the second book in the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series? So Arthur Dent and Ford Prefect run into this spaceship full of totally useless people sent off from their supposedly doomed home world ostensibly to colonize some safer planet: "Millions of them. Hairdressers, tired TV producers, insurance salesman, personnel officers, security guards, public relations executives, management consultants, you name it."

As the captain of the B ship explained, "the idea was that into the first ship, A Ship, would go all the brilliant leaders, the scientists, the great artists, you know, all the achievers. Then in the third, C Ship, would go all the people who did actual work, who made things and did things, and then into the B Ship, that's us, would go everyone else, the middlemen, you see." While it's obvious that the B Ship was sent out alone on an intergalactic wild-goose chase and good riddance, the dolts that run the boat were still naively waiting for their comrades to appear.

Most of eWorld's much ballyhooed branded content is straight off Douglas Adams' B ship. Kind of like Global Village modems, nice front-end with the easy to use software but no substance behind it, just post chasm marketing. Does the term pabulum mean anything to you? 'Cause I have never seen such a collection of pre-chewed information hucksters and new age systems gurus anywhere: Quick

Market Intelligence, Time Machine, Computer Intelligence Almanac, Job Search with Lee Hecht Harrison, The Mind Garden, Working Solo, Real/Time Marketing stop, I'm gonna' barf. The games are a joke, too. Sorry, guys, I still haven't figured out what Yoyodyne actually is or does and what they have to offer, it never really is explained very well at all.

Too bad Microsoft's network already has Electronic Arts creating games for them; now there's a marketing team that knows what customers want. Maybe there'll be Real/Time Marketing with Bill Gates now that I would pay for. And who needs a company like Apple to promote the McLaughlin Group and their elitist, beltway media



mentality anyways? College Life? Education Coalition? There's even a place for all sorts of deadbeats to find out how they can get a grant called the RSP Funding Focus. All of these places offer a sample of their drivel online so you can buy buckets of it if you want even more nicely packaged, low-level information: training videos, questionable marketing savvy from Rege baby and so-called reference materials. If anything, Friedman and company have set the all-time world record for lining the sow's ear with silk.

What's worse, they make it difficult for vendors, who, for God knows what reason, want to do business with and on eWorld. I know of one vendor that applied for a spot in the section for software vendors last November and was told every six weeks it would be just

another couple of week. Finally in March, the vendor gave up on the effort. This, I hear, is typical of eWorld's vendor customer service. Then Peter and his pals think they should be the ones to decide whether you are going to make money or let somebody else make money on your ideas, or even take your idea in-house themselves so they can make the money off it instead of you. Hurry-up. Slow-down. Sure, sign me up, let me blow a year's worth of resources just so I can get hosed by Apple and its famous non-competitive relationship with third-party vendors.

Then there's the ergonomics. You know what bugs me most? I still don't know where and when to click twice to make something happen. But that little inconsistency was overlooked by eWorld in favor of these upcoming features of the code-named "GoldenGate" release: Mail Assistant an agent (is that a word?) mail application that allows the users to filter incoming mail and automatically respond, save, forward or delete. Multiple Address Books gives the user the ability to maintain and manage multiple address books within eWorld. Speak: users can actually listen to the words in a conference room. Using Apple's PlainTalk technology, eWorld Speak assigns different voices to each conference room member, allowing the user to hear the conference. Auto-Open allows users to automatically open to a specific eWorld area when logging onto the service. Graphic Viewer allows quick and automatic display of graphics while downloading from within eWorld (finally).

ShowMovie allows users to open and automatically view movies that are on the hard disk (yours not theirs) by simply using "Open" in the "File" menu. Compound Multi-Media Document Architecture allows publisher creation and user viewing/use of compound documents integrating text graphics and photo images. Images are displayed at high speeds using progressive rendering technology. Improved Auto-Registration Sequence includes better setup of local phone numbers and better auto-registration for foreign countries. eWorld 1.1 Sounds plays simply feature popular eWorld sounds. Winter eWorld gives the user art he can use to change the top level eWorld Town Square to a Town Square Snow scene. Color Cursor, yessiree folks, fanciest drivel in town. Put on your bib and come and get it. ♦



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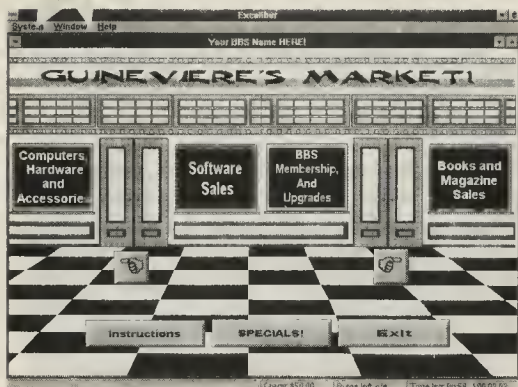
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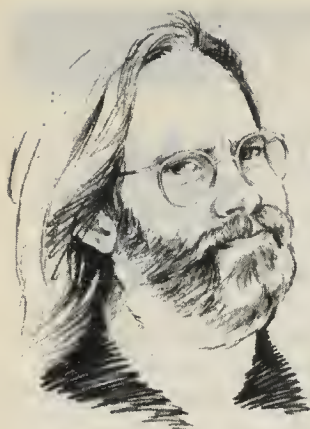


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BEGINNER'S LUCK by Doug Shaker

MOTHRA TRIES TO MAKE FRIENDS

Doug Shaker owns and operates The Smalltalk Store. He can be reached via e-mail at doug@smalltalk.com. He has one wife, two children, three cats, four computers and five telephones.

Last month, I got my BBS running. My BBS is aimed at programmers using the computer language Smalltalk. The BBS is formally known as The Smalltalk Cafe, but among friends, we refer to the little monster as Mothra. I have it running now. What's next? Getting users, that's what's next.

When I thought about starting this thing, I posted messages on a few net newsgroups and on a few forums on Compuserve, to gauge interest. I got back about 100 messages saying, more or less, "Gosh, it sure would be fun to *have* something like that, but I'm not going to do anything to help you." OK, fair enough. I had been hoping for something more like the old Andy Rooney-Judy Garland musicals where everyone approves of the idea and volunteers to do something helpful and useful. However, it is my experience that most people treat life as a spectator sport rather than a participatory event. A positive but unhelpful response was really the most likely.

Now, four months later, I have a working BBS. I have spent about **\$5,000** and maybe 100 hours getting it set up and working. As soon as it started working, I put notices up in the same places, netnews and Compuserve, that I had used to poll for interest. I let people know I had it working and asked them to come contribute, post, talk, download, *use* it.

I was hoping that a grateful public would then flock to the phone lines, begging for the privilege of using my BBS. Brilliant, literate Smalltalk programmers would think "Uploading, downloading, I don't care, just let me on! I need it! I need the Smalltalk Cafe BBS now!" This was probably naive of me. Note, for example, that with the substitution of a few choice words (and all the participants), and that the dialog quoted above would be perfectly reasonable for a sexual fantasy. And about as likely to come true.

But, gosh, I wasn't prepared for a system that averaged a caller every day or so. Sigh. But the reason for my board's initial lack of popularity is completely obvious — no content. An empty BBS is a very, very, boring thing.

I am not completely naive on this topic. I do have a content plan. I am planning on getting an Internet connection going and then collecting in one place the various FTP, netnews and mailing list resources that relate to Smalltalk. There are a lot more of them than most people know about and there is value in having them more readily available. I was also planning on getting people to teach (and take) online Smalltalk courses. With a kind of

grand repository of Smalltalk net resources and online courses, there may be enough message throughput to maintain a community.

Both of these content initiatives (if I may sound like a self-important jerk), depend on an Internet connection. The net resources depend on it in an obvious way. The online courses depend on it in a less obvious way. I need the Internet for those, so that my customers can telnet in, rather than pay telephone long-distance charges. So, getting an Internet connection was next on the list of things to do.

Luckily, I was doing all this in February when *Boardwatch Magazine* had an article on The Little Garden. The Little Garden (TLG) is a cheap Internet provider that doesn't mind if you resell your Internet connection.

I have no plans to do any such reselling, but I regard prohibitions against reselling as being noxious and stupid. The only thing that I find comparably noxious and stupid is compiler producers trying to charge runtime fees on programs produced on their compilers. I am an old geezer, 44, so I remember when they tried to do this with Basic on CP/M. The compiler folks were able to do so for a while, then someone (Microsoft?) abandoned runtime fees and all hell broke loose in the market. Within nine months, the one who broke ranks had all the market share and no one else was charging runtime fees anymore.

I don't know why people come up with these stupid ideas. Prohibiting Internet resale sounds good around the big table in the executive conference room, but it plays out as just plain stupid when the sales rep gets you on the phone and says "And, of course, we have a standard clause in our services contract that forbids reselling your connection." Say what? Why? Are my customers' bits too dirty for your modem? If you decide to go into the e-mail business, will you make me drop Internet e-mail as a service on my BBS? Forget it. Would you buy a car from someone who wouldn't let you resell it? Well, I have no intention of buying services from someone who is trying to develop an Internet cartel. So I called up The Little Garden.

Well, no, actually, I didn't call them. I sent e-mail to info@tlg.org and got back a nice introduction to TLG. They have three types of connections: occasional SLIP connection, full-time SLIP connection and frame relay over a leased line. Frame relay over a leased line has great throughput and fast response. It is a bit expensive, though. Hardware

will run you about **\$1,000** for your end of the line, another **\$1,000** for your provider's end of the line, another **\$1,000** to get the leased line installed, and probably something like **\$2,000** for a cheap or used router. If you want to cut a corner or two, you could get a 386 Linux box and learn how to do software routing under UNIX and use the Linux box instead of the router. That would bring the router cost down to about **\$800**. Either way, you still have a monthly cost of at least **\$125** to the phone company and **\$150** to the provider and you have to pay a couple of months of those fees in advance. TLG says, quite honestly, leased line is only an option if you have **\$5,000** to spend on your connection, now. Not an accurate description of me, let me tell you.

The on-demand SLIP connection is basically just a way of getting connected to the net via modem at an hourly rate. The phone call from the BBS to the net needs to be initiated from your BBS. Most BBS software can initiate SLIP phone calls automatically, so on-demand SLIP is very useful for people logged in to your BBS. However, since the SLIP connection cannot be initiated by your Internet provider, it is useless if you want to use it to allow telnet logins or if you want to host your own web page.

What TLG does that is nice is to take advantage of a part of the telephone rate structure. In most communities, there are types of service that allow for free local calls within a certain radius. For example, all calls from exchange 444 to exchanges 445, 446, 448 and 965 might be included in the basic monthly rate for the phone line. TLG has phone lines in a few places in the San Francisco area. If you are lucky enough to be able to call one of these numbers as a local call (i.e., free), then you can use a SLIP connection to get 24-hour connectivity to the net. TLG calls this modem-based service.

TLG has a whole series of FAQ sheets on this stuff. I downloaded and read them all, gulped hard and decided to sign up for the modem-based connection. I filled out an initial form, about a page or so of information, then e-mailed it in. This first questionnaire seems to have been intended to find out what I wanted and whether or not I was realistically capable of implementing my end of it. TLG is not a hand-holding kind of place. TLG is a group of folks with a direct net connection trying to empower others who want a net connection.

I guess I passed. About a day or so later, I got another questionnaire, via e-mail, to fill out. This asked some more specific questions and told me I had to pay some money before they would get going with things. More specifically, it stated that if I were to mail money in at the same time that I e-mailed in the application, that would speed things up. It also said that if I didn't send in some money, they would send me an invoice.

My wife is an accountant, and I am a doofy nerd. I don't like getting her upset, so I get nervous writing checks without an invoice. I decided to wait for the invoice. So I waited for a few days — nothing. A few more days — nothing. Hmmm, maybe I've done something wrong. I called them up. It turns out they had stopped sending out invoices unless they were specifically requested, but they had forgotten to tell the rest of us about the change. After we figured out what had happened, Tom Jennings, the head poobah at TLG, promised that they would

change the e-mail and I sent them a check.

Then I got back a nifty e-mail with the IP numbers for my domain, the phone number I would be connecting to, and the parameters I needed to log in and start my SLIP connection. Neat-o! I called the number and it already had a modem on it. I logged in and it started up a SLIP connection! Yes! Quick and easy progress!

But if you know computers, you must be aware that such moments are illusory. Shakyamuni Buddha said that life is, by its nature, not satisfying, and my experience is that computers are definitely a case in point.

I use TSX-BBS. To get a SLIP connection going with that BBS, you need to write a script in their C-like language, TPL. They provide a sample, and it was pretty easy to follow along in the sample and create something that I thought should work. It didn't though. It seemed to hang after asking for the login prompt.



Mothra BBS

When I called in by hand and did what I thought I was asking the CPU to do, it worked fine. When I called in using the script, it seemed to hang. I tried getting the script to match on the end of the login prompt instead of the beginning. I tried matching on the whole thing. I tried just lower case. I tried lots of stuff. After two hours of thrashing, I called S&H, the makers of TSX-BBS, and asked for help.

The support representative and I traced the IO on that channel with a debugging utility and he saw something that seemed to indicate that TSX was doing something unexpected (at least to me) with the carriage returns that were part of the login dialog. Some were supposed to be doubled, or not doubled or something. In any case, we ended up deleting a line from the script that should have been innocuous and everything started working fine.

Or at least, the script did. I then found Mothra started crashing all the time. That was weird. It seemed to be connected with no particular action. Sometimes it would stay up for hours. Sometimes it would crash before it booted all the way. I called S&H Computers, the makers of TSX-BBS. The support guys there seemed to feel the problem was that I had some ROM shadowing turned on in my system's CMOS and this was contaminating the upper memory blocks (15Mb to 17Mb) on my PC.

The contamination was probably going on all along, but it wasn't until I started to turn on the networking utilities that TSX started using that memory. In any case, when we turned off the ROM shadowing, everything seemed to go fine for while. You never know with an intermittent problem, but it seemed OK for about a week.

Then it crashed while a user was downloading a file. I tried to call S&H, but they are three time zones east of me and had gone home. However, there is a nice facility in TSX that allows you to dump memory to a floppy from the debugger. I dumped my crash dump, over-nighted it to S&H. They called me early the next morning, and we spent about 20 minutes poking around in the debugger. It turned out there was a small bug in one network utility that was rewriting memory. They put together a fix, I FTP'd it to my system, installed it, and haven't had any problems since.

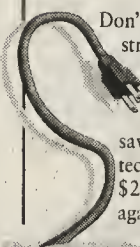
Finally, today, TLG notified me that they were turning in the paperwork to move my domain name (smalltalk.com) to point at my BBS. A name change like this takes a few days to spread through the Internet, but by the time you read this, Mothra should be ping-able and telnet-able. Another hard-won victory!

This story was compiled from these following resources that I would like to share with the readers, so they may also contact the various sources for their own similar bulletin board adventures. The Little Garden, voice: 415-487-1902, information via e-mail auto-reply: info@tlg.org. TSX BBS: S and H Computer Systems, 615-327-3670, BBS: 615-320-1820, telnet or ftp: sandh.com. Shareware demos are downloadable from the BBS.

The Smalltalk Cafe BBS, Mothra, can be reached by modem at 415-854-5581. By the time this reaches print, it may be reachable by telnet as the Internet node BBS.smalltalk.com. If you just want to look around, log in with first name = "boardwatch" and last name = "guest". If you have a real interest in Smalltalk, log in as yourself. ♦

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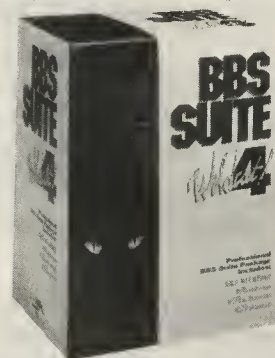
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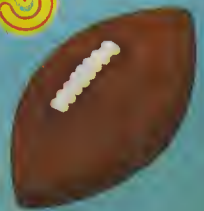


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PEOPLE ONLINE

by Phyllis Phlegar

YOU CAN BRING A HORSE TO WATER...OR WORDS, BUT...

Phyllis Phlegar is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and also holds a private pilot's license. She is a freelance announcer and her work can be heard on Business Radio Network, National Public Radio and the Armed Forces Radio Network. Phyllis' book *Love Online* is now available from Addison Wesley Publishing Company.

Write to Phyllis, at XHBG67A on Prodigy, P. Phlegar on GEnie, Phlegar on Delphi, P Phlegar on AOL, 71562, 407 on CompuServe or at phyllis@cris.com on the Internet.

Recently, I was online in a chat room, with about fifteen other people, when one fellow started sending me private pages. He shot page after page, one being "your not talking" (yes "your") finally explaining that he was new on the system and then started asking me very personal questions. I wasn't really concerned about it, since I was using a pseudonym, but it was annoying. To make it worse (for me anyway) his spelling was terrible, he didn't capitalize anything nor use punctuation.

The spelling I could overlook, but the rest just grated on my nerves.

But I wasn't going to judge him on only a few sentences, so, after fielding a few rather childish carnal questions from someone who claimed to be in his late 40's, I asked why he was attempting to get acquainted with me by asking sexual questions? His response, complete with his not-too-charming style of typing was, "maybe im giving you the wrong impression that is the disadvantage of talking on line and not in person you cant see a persons eyes..."

Oh my, did he say **that** to the wrong person. My response was "I disagree, online is an advantage, you aren't using it to **your advantage**. You ask blatant stuff, when you can talk about anything. There is no need, here, to see one's eyes, or face...it is irrelevant. Would you ask me such personal things right off the bat, before getting to know me, if we were in person?"

I went on to urge him to use, at least, periods, so that I'd know when he was done with one sentence and on to another. His excuse was that he didn't type (as he put it) as well as I did, and continued to write criminally run-on sentences, full of inappropriate personal queries. Soon after, I excused myself

and signed off...he just wasn't listening. Err...make that reading. Some people don't listen in face to face encounters, and don't read and **comprehend** online.

My favorite "horse led to water" is my husband. After over a year of writing online, our in-person life was, in the beginning, sometimes confusing. I'd explained very carefully in letters to him "who I was" but sometimes he acted as if I were someone else. It all came to a head one day during a misunderstanding...he didn't understand why I had done something, and I didn't understand why it was a

surprise...didn't he know me better than that, after all my e-mail to him? His response was that he read the words explaining what I was all about, but he didn't think I meant it.

There was nowhere to go with this situation but to get on with it. I asked if he liked who I really was (as opposed to who he thought I was regardless of letters to the contrary), he said yes, I said so, let's go with it, okay? Okay, he said, and we've done great in the years since. Gotta love a person who keeps his brain engaged!

Unfortunately, not everyone will allow for personal growth and discovery by drinking the water, and they continue to hear, or in the case on cyberspace communi-

cations, read what they want to, sometimes changing the meaning and spirit of a message, without asking something like "do you mean to say..." or something similar, before jumping to conclusions. Within the past year, I had a few experiences that I found unsettling, and that fit into this category.

In one case, someone wrote and asked me if I would agree to be interviewed for a book she was working on. I told her that I would need to talk to my publishers first and see what they thought about it. Then I went on to say that I'd like to know more about her earlier works, and what her latest effort



was all about. It sounded interesting, and I wanted to know more. I never said that I wouldn't agree to be interviewed and made it very plain that I was not only interested in her new book, but who she was and more about her as a person and as a writer.

She wrote back right away, not to tell me more about the book, but to inquire as to why couldn't she interview me? She went on to say that she didn't want to have to use material without my permission even though legally she could, and she quoted the law allowing her to do so. She seemed to be half begging, half demanding and unaware that I had not turned her down, only asked that she wait until I got permission. I didn't like the whole tone of her letter and wondered how good she was at interviewing. But I decided why not give her another chance.

After a short time, I got permission to be interviewed and wrote back telling her the good news. I asked if she would please conduct the interview online, so that I could make a log of it myself. It's been over six months, and I haven't heard back from her yet.

But the strangest and most frightening misreading of messages was one exchange I had with the sysop of a specialty bbs. At the time I was still collecting information for my book *Love Online*. I was gathering threads to demonstrate the varied subject matter a person could find on a bbs.

Each time I went on a bbs, I'd always talk to the sysop and tell him or her that I was writing a book and looking for information, and that I would not use any material if they didn't want me too. Some of you may be wondering why I bothered to ask and may think of me as ridiculously polite. Many of the sysops did too, explaining that I didn't have to ask for permission, and then, they'd give me all sorts of extra time on their boards and let me into pay areas for free.

One Sunday afternoon, I logged onto a bbs in another state; I'll call it "**Mr. X's bbs**." I registered, gave them the usual personal information and was told I now had 45 minutes of time online. I checked out the public messages and opened a log to collect a few, and when I was done I wrote a private note to the sysop. Here is the private note I wrote:

"Hello! I am under contract with a publisher to write a how-to book about online communications. One chapter is

devoted exclusively to bulletin boards. Would you mind if I used a few of the threads from this board in my book? I will remove all last names and anything else personal — geographic references will be made more general. I realize that since this is a public board, that there is no real need to ask this, but I still think you might want some input. Today, I got everything I will need, so I will log back on later in a day or so and see what you have to say..."

I also told him I wrote for Boardwatch Magazine and gave him my Internet address. I logged back on a few days later to see if the sysop minded if I used any material for the book. He minded, all right, he minded very much and attributed a few extra personality traits to me that I didn't know I had. Here is his **public** reply to my **private** message part of which he made public in his post:

PP: "...I realize that since this is a public board, that there is no real need to ask this..."

X: "So what you are saying is that you will use material from my board for your book whether I like it or not. Why bother to ask me then if you are so sure of your legal grounds? People who use this bulletin board are my guests. Do you go into other people's homes and help yourself to whatever interests you? Well you are most emphatically NOT welcome to use material from the messages on this board for your book. Unless of course we can reach some agreement on revenue sharing, perhaps? Heh, heh, I thought not...Please go somewhere else and steal your material."

I was shocked; I couldn't believe that my letter could elicit such a response. Why didn't he ask me privately what my intentions were? What was the point of making it public? How could he jump to so many negative conclusions about me without first trying to clarify what was going on? I tried to reply but soon got the message that my time was up.

My time was up?! That was **not** 45 minutes. Later, I checked my long distance phone log and it showed 10 minutes. He'd not only misunderstood me, he'd taken one sentence out of context for all to see and then downgraded my status. Or perhaps I'd been twitfiled and couldn't access the public messages anyway. The best idea seemed to be just to ignore the whole thing. Then

I received this letter a few days later through the Internet:

"Ms. Phlegar, I'm a communicant on **Mr. X's bbs** as well as a staff writer on (a really large newspaper in one of the country's largest metropolitan areas). As you've probably read by now, I made so bold as to involve myself in your exchange with **Mr. X**. At first, I was puzzled by the vehemence of his response to you but have since come to understand and agree with his position.

"As a fellow journalist, I share your attitude that we have a right to pick up stuff that's lying out there in public. As a longtime bbser, I also appreciate the effort and expense **Mr. X** has put into **X bbs**, and can see why he was offended by your casual assertion that what's his is yours."

"I believe that a more tactfully phrased request would elicit his permission; I hope you won't use anything from **Mr. X's bbs** over his objection. Regards, **Mr. Biggie Newspaper Staff Writer**"

Wasn't that special. Now I was being gently scolded for actions I didn't take and **wouldn't** take by someone who thought I was following all this on **Mr. X's bbs**, apparently no one knew that my status had been downgraded.

I have not, and won't be logging onto **Mr. X's bbs** again. While it was my fear of appearing foolish that may have given him the wrong first impression, why didn't he ask if I intended to "steal" his stuff? Instead he publicly passed judgment on me. I had to wonder if he was now reading my column in Boardwatch, one in which I try to help and inform people, not hurt them, certainly not "steal" from anyone.

But I suppose **Mr. X** could read every column I'd ever written and, *Love Online*, my now published book with positive information about people and bbs's, and he would probably still not "drink the water."

I complained to my sister about all this and she remarked, "For some people, being online is just a quicker and more efficient way to be a jerk...and imagine the audience potential." ♦

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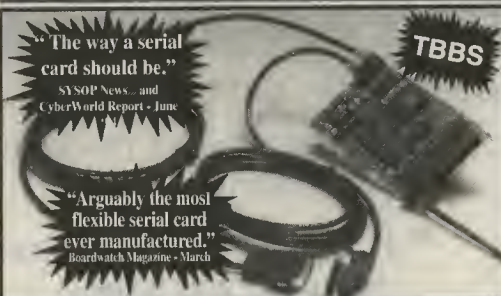
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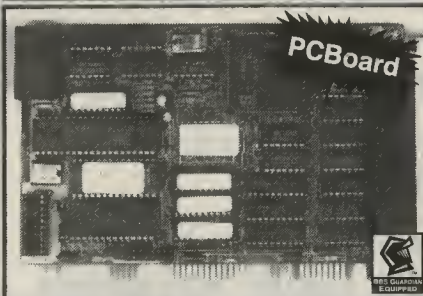
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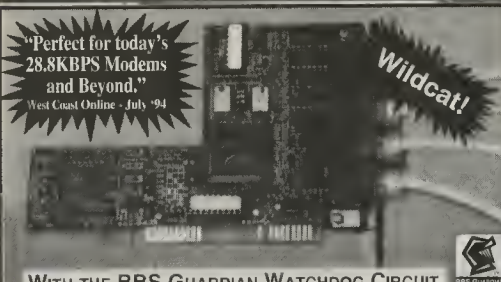
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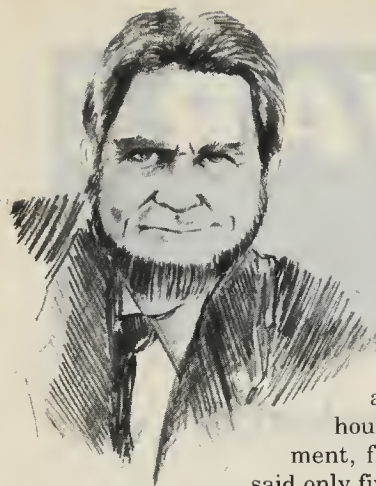
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DELPHI

by Walt Howe

DELPHI FREE TRIAL EXTENDED TO 10 HOURS

In early March, Delphi unexpectedly announced that henceforth all free trial offers would be for 10 hours instead of five, even if the advertisement, flyer or promotion being responded to said only five hours. This applies to new members only. Former members are not eligible for the offer. This is a welcome move, because five hours is not very long to learn a new text interface and even begin to learn ways to get around the very complex Internet. And even though Delphi will soon be activating their Netscape server for graphical Web access, this type of access cannot do everything on the nets. Easy interface or not, there is still much to learn to get beyond the surface and find the depths that are available.

To take advantage of the 10-hour free trial, dial (800)695-4002 by modem. Use the password INTERNETSIG or other passwords from printed advertisements. A credit card is necessary for this method of sign-up. Other options are available by calling (800)695-4005 voice.

MANAGEMENT CHANGES

One of the signs of major changes coming in DELPHI was sweeping changes made in top management during the past few months. This was perhaps inevitable after a transitional period of time after News Corp. bought DELPHI in November 1993. Gone are such names as Dan Bruns, the former President of DELPHI and General Manager, and Vice President Rusty Williams, who had the most public presence of the senior management. Their vision transformed DELPHI from a quiet fifth ranked online service known for its friendly communities of people and low evening prices to a rapidly growing leader in Internet services.

The new management team still includes a few holdovers from the old organization, but their lives will never be the same. New President Alan Baratz, who developed worldwide networking for IBM, has brought together an aggressive and experienced group of industry leaders. The central management is moving from Cambridge, Massachusetts to the New York City area for better proximity to current and future corporate partners. The operation of the online service remains in Cambridge, Massachusetts at least for the time being.

The commitment to future growth can be seen in DELPHI's lead advertisement in the *New York Times* Sunday Business section of March 25th,

where 17 different job positions were offered. DELPHI was advertising for HTML Web Page Developers, an Internet Standards Expert, Managers of Promotions, Special Events, Trade Shows, Software Engineers, Database Developers, Research Managers and lots more.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Alan Baratz sent a message to the entire membership on March 17th, introducing himself, telling about changes in DELPHI, and giving a look into the future. His words included this:

"We just signed an agreement with Netscape Communications, licensing their much-heralded Netscape Navigator and Netsite Commerce Server software. For you, this will mean easy access to the richest resources and most innovative services on the 'Net'. It will also help us deliver a new, totally graphical-based platform. Netscape Navigator and Netsite Server software will bring secure communications and industry-leading performance to this new platform."

He went on to describe new members of the management team and the roles they would play in the months to come as DELPHI introduces its new platform. He also spoke of worldwide expansion, building beyond the present DELPHI UK that was recently introduced. Parent News Corp. is already well positioned to help expand the services throughout Europe and into the Pacific Rim.

Baratz promised regular communications with the membership will follow.

SECURE WEB COMMUNICATIONS

One of the most significant things in Alan Baratz' words above was the mention of "secure communications." Netscape and other Mosaic companies are scurrying to perfect secure encryption as part of the basic Web browser package. For business to be accomplished across this medium, security must be total, and Internet communications at present are anything but secure. The press has reported the ease with which such hackers as Kevin Mitnick have penetrated Internet sites. Mitnick was reported to have retrieved 20,000 credit card numbers from an Internet provider. DELPHI has been fortunate in the greater security of VMS platforms and a good technical crew to oversee that it remains that way. But the new Netscape software will probably run under UNIX, not VMS.

Walt Howe is the Internet Special Interest Group Manager on DELPHI. He has sysoped for several BBSs including the old Source network, CompuServe, and Delphi. Over the last four years he co-authored with Steve Lambert *Internet Basics, Your Online Access to the Global Electronic Superhighway*, available in most bookstores. Walt has also written a number of user manuals for various computer companies, including Delphi. Walt can be reached by e-mail as walthowe@delphi.com. A five hour free Delphi membership is available by dialing (800) 695-4002 by modem and using the password INTERNETSIG

Even if the platform is secure, there is little security when linked to remote sites via the Internet. Typically, a connection will be relayed between 10 to 25 different sites, any of which is a potential site for a security leak. The only answer that will satisfy this problem is secure and seamless encryption of personal and financial information. Without it, the conduct of business across the nets will be severely limited. Many individuals who are concerned now use PGP software, but that isn't the answer for running a business. Better answers are on the way.

GOPHER/NAVIGATOR IMPROVEMENTS

Another innovation has been quietly introduced to the Special Interest Groups and Custom Forums as a step to prepare for future posture. The Gopher and Usenet software has had new capabilities added to it, so that all forms of Internet access from FTP to Gopher to Telnet to newsgroups to World Wide Web can be integrated into subject menus. Submenu capabilities have been added, previously only found in the Internet SIG. And instead of specifying links to resources through Gopher link format, the new software permits using Uniform Resource Locator (URL) links, which are the basis of World Wide Web pages. SIG and Forum hosts have been encouraged to learn and use the new forms, an obvious skill needed for developing Web pages in the near future. They are also being encouraged to integrate Usenet newsgroup menus into the Navigator, too. All these things together permit a new design for subject organized areas, and make it much easier to transition to a graphical Web based model in the future. The portion of links in the Navigator menus that are devoted to World Wide Web sites is rapidly rising, and it will not be long before the Web links will out number the Gopher links, reflecting the trends on the Internet itself.

The Navigator's current biggest weakness is the lack of an integrated forms browser for Web access. Many Web sites expect you to be able to "fill in the blanks" on a screen for such things as using Web

keyword search capabilities or filling out a questionnaire. To do this now requires telneting to another site that offers public access to Lynx software, a forms capable text browser. While it is

easy enough to build Navigator pointers to Lynx sites, it is then up to the user to type in a URL to connect to a site that requires forms support. It requires a degree of expertise of the user that shuts out all those who haven't learned those skills. It will be solved by the new interface, when it is ready, but it would be very useful to have the built-in forms capabilities for the present and future text-only-users. Lynx software is available and will run on DELPHI's current platforms, but DELPHI engineers who have looked into it hint of bugs that will cause problems in large scale use and perhaps some security problems, too.

NEW CUSTOM FORUMS IN MARCH

Forum 367 - The Cyberkitchen (OPEN)

Forum 435 - AADP (OPEN)

Forum 129 - Basic/Visual Basic GROTO (OPEN)

Forum 203 - Flea Markets & Etc (OPEN)

Forum 108 - Wheels Down (OPEN)

Forum 441 - Tomi and Creationism (APPLICATION ONLY)

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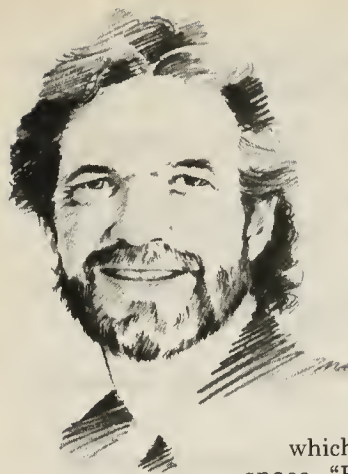
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CELEBRITY ONLINE APPEARANCES

Ric Manning writes about computers and technology for *The Courier-Journal* in Louisville, KY. His weekly column on consumer electronics is syndicated through the *Gannett News Service*. Ric reads his e-mail at ricman@iglou.com on the Internet, and **USJM92A** on Prodigy.

Maybe you missed the online session with Geraldo Rivera in which he confessed to being a virgin in cyberspace. "Be gentle," he implored the crowd in Prodigy's Chat room. Rivera was among a steady stream of celebrities, media personalities, authors and assorted hucksters who field member questions almost every night. If you miss the live sessions, you can JUMP CHAT TRANSCRIPTS to read transcripts of the conversations. What you'll find when you JUMP are celebrities fielding an array of squishy softball questions. When the guests are online, they can preview incoming questions and decide which ones they want to answer.

When actor Louis Gossett Jr. was online recently, he was happy to tell participants about his favorite movie roles and to plug his next project. But he never got around to answering a question about the negative stereotypes of Arabs in his *Iron Eagle* films. However, celebrities do occasionally have something interesting or clever to say when they're online and I've saved you the trouble of combing through Prodigy's transcripts to look for the good stuff. Let us start with a controversial television figure.



TALK SHOW HOST GERALDO RIVERA

MerdeSheRote: Do you see much of Kurt Vonnegut these days, and what is his attitude toward all the OJ broohaha?

Rivera: I honor and respect my former father-in-law more than I can possibly say, but we have been estranged since the publication of my autobiography back in 1991.

Blueprint: Geraldo, how did you feel when you could not find anything of value from Al Capone's vault?

Rivera: Like a donkey's ass.

ROCKERS JIMMY PAGE AND ROBERT PLANT

QWARTZ: Will you be donating any "artifacts" to the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland?

Plant: Yes — my memory cells from 1969.

Hacker 79: Robert what was it like being a member of such a legendary band like LED ZEPLIN?

Plant: If it's so legendary, why don't you spell the name correctly? PS. At times, it was cool.

LAWYER AND LEGAL SCHOLAR ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Derm: If you find out your client is guilty during the trial what do you do?

Dershowitz: That is precisely the theme of *The Advocate's Devil* (his new novel). You can't leave the case. You can't blow the whistle on the client. And you can't defend him as if he didn't do it. It's one of the most difficult dilemmas an ethical lawyer faces. Read *The Advocate's Devil* for the answer.

Johnny Blue: Is the American legal system really controlled by who has the most money and influence?

Dershowitz: No. The prosecution always has the most money and influence. They never run out of resources. They have 100s of lawyers and unlimited investigators. Even the wealthiest defendant is no match for the prosecution, but at least a wealthy defendant has a chance to question the prosecution's investigation and forensic case, whereas the poor defendants don't have the resources to do that.

MILITARY ANALYST COL. DAVID HACKWORTH

Legend Viper: What is Mr. Hackworth's opinion on the military spending today?

Hackworth: The USA spends an average of 300 billion a year on toys and boys and spies and lies spanning the globe...we spend more than the rest of the world combined...such massive spending places an unacceptable burden on the U.S. economy and saddles the nation with a military force that is far too powerful for the challenges that they face. The military desperately needs reforming.

Fla Kid: Col. Hackworth, Why do you believe in more defense cuts?

Hackworth: Because the U.S. military is organized for the wrong war. They're still basically structured as they were for World War II. We must prepare our military for the 21st Century. The weapon of the future will not be the cannon; it will be the microchip.

DR. BERNIE KATZ, HOST OF LUNCHTIME THERAPY

ErinDorsit: I had a dream; I am in a car with my mother and sister. We are warned about a pit in the road but my sister does not see it; she drives us right in. We fall but land in a parking lot. I hear God's voice leading us. He says I opened my mind quickly to this (accepting). I try to heal my mother who can't walk. He says let the expert do it. She is young again. He leads us all, but I am left behind...I am not religious (but I believe in God) what could this dream mean?

Katz: Erin, The dream suggests that there is difficulty in the relationship between you and your mother and sister. You are trying to correct the situation but you keep falling into the same conflicts and arguments again and again. You may feel some guilt as to the cause which is why you are left behind. The image of God suggests that a part of you sees a man, maybe a father or boyfriend, as the rescuer of women, but not of you.

ACTOR MARTIN LANDAU

JDJD: Mr. Landau, In the course of researching your role of Mr. Lugosi, what was the most surprising thing you learned about him?

Landau: How talented he was. There's a film entitled Bela Lugosi Meets the Brooklyn Gorilla, which, with all due respect to Ed Wood, is probably the worst film I've ever seen. Even in that context, Lugosi portrays his mad scientist with a plumb (sic), dignity and amazing presence and intensity. I became his number one fan.

TELEVISION HOST ED MCMAHON

GREENDAY999: so...ed where are my 10 million dollars?

McMahon: I heard this morning that you came in second.

Melissa: Ed...Are you a womanizer?

McMahon: No. I don't have the equipment.

WagonMaster: Hi Ed, of all of the years on the *Tonight Show*, what do you consider to be your funniest moment?

McMahon: Probably the night the dog left me in an Alpo commercial, and Johnny came in on his hands and knees and ate the dog food, licked my hand, and wagged his rear end in pleasure.

SANTA CLAUS

ENGINE 5: Would you be able to help my friend by granting her a wish of money?

Claus: Dear Engine 5 - Santa makes toys, not money. It's against the law to make money! Ho Ho Ho.

Ulysses: What would happen if I put a fire in the fireplace on Christmas Eve?

Claus: I'd need new pants Ho Ho Ho.

ACTOR WILLIAM SHATNER

FlynnClu: In interviews I've seen with other Star Trek cast members, I get the impression that the relationships between cast members were somewhat tenuous. Is this the case?

Shatner: It's hard to answer for anybody else, but as far as I'm concerned, I'm very fond of everybody in the cast, some more than others. Leonard Nimoy and I are the best of friends and see each other frequently. This is not the case with some of the other cast members. But my feeling is they are busy selling their books and forgetting what really happened.

Comett: Was the cast of Star Trek just too old to keep up with the series?

Shatner: No, just too expensive.

Comett: What was your most favorite episode?

Shatner: June Wilson, who was 16 and I was 12.

GAME SHOW HOST ALEX TREBEK

Frapp1: Alex, is there any truth to the allegations of your show being fixed?

Trebek: Absolutely not. That accusation was made by a former employee following problems he had experienced with the Writers Guild and the terms of his separation from Jeopardy Prods. The publishers of the book he wrote sent us a letter of apology, acknowledging they had doubts about what he had written and withdrew the book from publication.

MEMBERS OF THE ROCK BAND AEROSMITH

Aerochick: Where did the song Dude (looks like a lady) come from — what inspired those lyrics?

Steven Tyler: Dear Aerochick, I was hanging out with Motley Crue and I was "duded" to death. That mixed with Eddie Murphy's portrayal of a gay Mr. T had us all rolling on the floor. And, voila — Dude Looks like a lady...

EFF: What's the best come-on line from a groupie that you've ever heard?

Tyler: Nice bum, where'ya from? ♦

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GENIE by Lenny Bailes

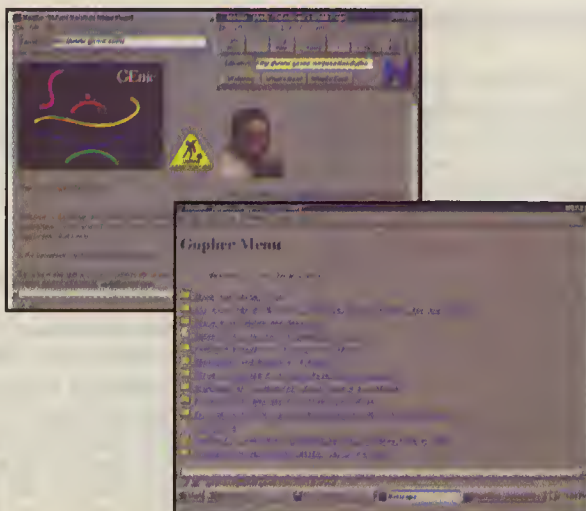
LOOKING INTO GENIE

Lenny Bailes is a PC consultant, writer and teacher living in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a contributing editor for Microtimes, a California computing magazine, and co-author of Byte's DOS Programmer's Cookbook.

The most morbidly-fascinating material to be found on GENie this month is authored by rising media star Newt Gingrich. It is available (ironically enough) in the Public Forum for NonProfit communications (PF-NPC, Page 545). The PF library contains transcripts of the televised history lectures that earned Gingrich over \$150,000 of free commercial air time. There's also a copy of the outline for Gingrich's PhD dissertation.

Reading the material, you can trace the Newt-tonian devolution from a well-meaning liberal to a Darwinian avatar of Scrooge McDuck. 1972: "The Belgians never understood the realities of change in postwar Africa. Even more significantly, they never understood the relationship between economic modernization, which they favored, and social and political modernization, which they opposed." 1994: "If you want Americans to change, change the incentives. If we said: we'll pay \$1,000 to every first grader who can read the day they walk into school, you would be at 95 or 98 percent literacy within two years like that."

The Gingrich Collection in the PF Archive also includes an impressive reading list of works by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Alexis de Tocqueville and Alvin Toffler. No mention is made of the Nazi Sex-Kitten pulp novel that Gingrich had William Fortschen write for him back in the '80s, nor of the rumors for Gingrich's up-and-coming collaboration with a well-known sci-fi militarist (whose name Boardwatch readers should easily guess.)



The latest news from GENie Internet Postmaster, Andrew Finkenstadt, is that the text-based Gopher utility will be ready for open-beta testing online by the end of March. In the meantime, if you've already got Internet access through another service provider, you might be interested in checking out GENie's (and Andy's) pages on the World Wide Web. You can find the GENie homepage at <http://www.genie.com>, while Andy's personal page is at <http://www.genie.net.user/homepage.html>. Although at the time of this writing the GENie gopher can't be accessed internally by members, it can be browsed on the Web or through a third-party dial-up account (at Gopher.genie.com).

Peggy Herrington, the editor of GENie's *Livewire* magazine, announced this month that a Windows multimedia edition will soon be available, along with the DOS, Macintosh, Amiga and Apple IIGS versions. *Livewire* typically includes announcements of upcoming events for each month, together with personal profiles of active GENie personalities, and spotlights on selected round table happenings. This month's issue focuses on Home Office Computing and Shareware.



With the April 15 tax deadline looming large in all our lives, the Home Office RT (Page 370) is holding nightly conferences where small entrepreneurs may chat about various strategic issues. The Tax RT (Page 1,040) is holding weekly Tax Help clinics on Wednesday evenings.

If you're going CD hunting and want some ideas for good titles, you may want to check out the capsule reviews sponsored by GENie's Music Roundtable (CAPSULE). This section of GENie is updated on a weekly basis, and currently covers titles ranging from Henri Mancini to Tripmaster Monkey. The reviews are edited by Music RT Sysop Steven McDonald, and are pitched at an evocative descrip-

tion of contents, rather than critical pronouncements.

The Capsule Review page also includes video release summaries, a miscellaneous listing of comic book trade paperbacks and computer/multimedia titles. I looked for a review of Bob Dylan's new Highway 61 Interactive CD but didn't find it. (I'm hoping that some dedicated Dylan fan will review the CD and publish a cheat sheet. This would spare music fans the necessity of mouse-clicking on every pixel on the off-chance of launching a studio demo.

GENie is currently touting its Windows '95 News Center as the place to go if you want to track the latest and greatest developments in the advent of the GUI that ate Chicago (Winnews, Page 95). Actually, considering that GENie is not the home of the Microsoft beta test program, they've done a fairly good job. The news releases for the latest Win 95 builds are updated regularly, and the entire Win 95 Resource Kit can be downloaded in a later version than the one on Microsoft's "official" Beta CD.

The level of technical discussion in bulletin board messages here is not as sophisticated as on the Compuserve Beta forum, but discussion topics are populated by active Win '95 beta testers — who are doing a fine job of fielding questions asked by non-Beta participants. The Win 95 software library (Page 95) includes several Win95 sample applications, some good 32-bit Internet utilities and lots of official Microsoft PR material.

The Microsoft Press RT (MSPRESS, Page 960) includes discussion areas for all Microsoft products, focusing mainly on books. Both Microsoft authors and editors are participants in the MSPRESS BBS area, providing a good opportunity for readers to offer feedback and suggestions about what they like/don't like about various Microsoft publications and products.

And while we're on the subject of Windows, the regular Windows RT Software Library (Page 1335) includes several good diagnostic utilities. WinTune (WT20.ZIP) performs a series of tests on your CPU, disk, video card and memory, delivering a graphic benchmark report and advisory tips for optimizing your Windows configura-

tion. Win Sleuth (WSLEUTH.ZIP) can display detailed information about your video/disk configuration as well as statistics on Windows resources. And for one last bit of Microsoft news, the Microsoft RT Library (Page 505) currently has the MS Access 2.0 Service Pack available for download.

This month, GENie is also linking twenty-seven conference areas to a celebration of Native American culture. The February 11 issue of *Wotanging Ichke*, the Internet Native American Newsletter, reports that recently in Tempe, Arizona:

"The Native American Communications Council, Inc. ("NACC") was established for the purpose of developing a Native owned and operated electronic network hub. The development of a Native Internet ser-



vice will ensure that Native people will have full and easy access to computer based telecommunications, relevant to their specific needs.

"While there are a few Native American operated bulletin board systems, and user groups offering online services, basic telecommunications infrastructure remains severely lacking in Native America. There are currently 550 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaskan Native villages in the United States; only two, however have any significant connection to or presence on the Internet. As of December 1994, only a few of the twenty-eight Native controlled colleges were connected to the Internet."

The NACC, founded by five knowledgeable workers of Native American descent, seeks to develop a Native owned and operated telecommunications network to provide Native people

with full and easy access to information stored on the NACC server. The creators of the organization also hope to develop an interactive Internet network of services and programs to provide access to information resources, distances learning, grant opportunities, legal issues, health issues, professional job opportunities and to educate Native Americans about the "possibilities and resources of the Information Superhighway." Contacts: Tamera Crites Shanker and Victoria Bracewell Short (NACC@aol.com).

GENie's celebration of Native American culture will include spirituality discussions in The Philosophy and Religion RTs, Native American Cooking in the East RT, Native American Skylore in the Space & Science RT, Native American Medicines in the Chemistry RT, Native American Music in the Music RT, Native American Heroes in Romantic Fiction in the Romance Fiction RT, and "Indian Stereotypes in Comic Books" in the Comics RT. A series of digitized Native American art pieces in multimedia GIF format can be downloaded from the Multimedia RT Library (Page 2,000, files 1196-1198). The music that accompanies the gallery display was composed by the artists. (You'll find one or two of the paintings floating around this column.)

Wotanging Ichke can be downloaded from the East and West RTs (Pages 1,470 and 1,065) in ASCII or zipped formats. It contains reports of current events, philosophical discussions and good poems, such as this one:

Coyote Morning

by Turtle Heart, turtle@soft21.s21.com (Ahnishinabeg)

Old men
and old coyote dogs
boil their dreams in the sun
served steaming within a bowl
filled with shadows
rolling sticks onto the ground
and making wild songs
while they smack their lips
and spit out the dust
blown in by the winds
nameless
and place-less
but hard to ignore

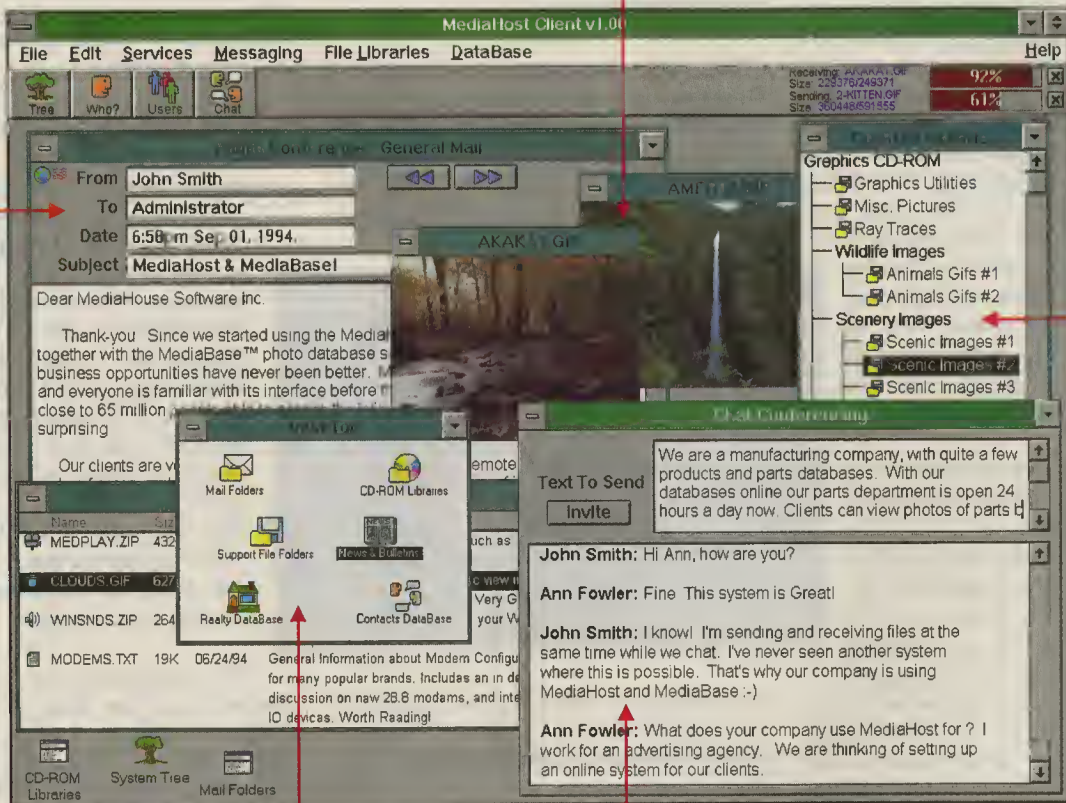
Tobacco Indian ♦

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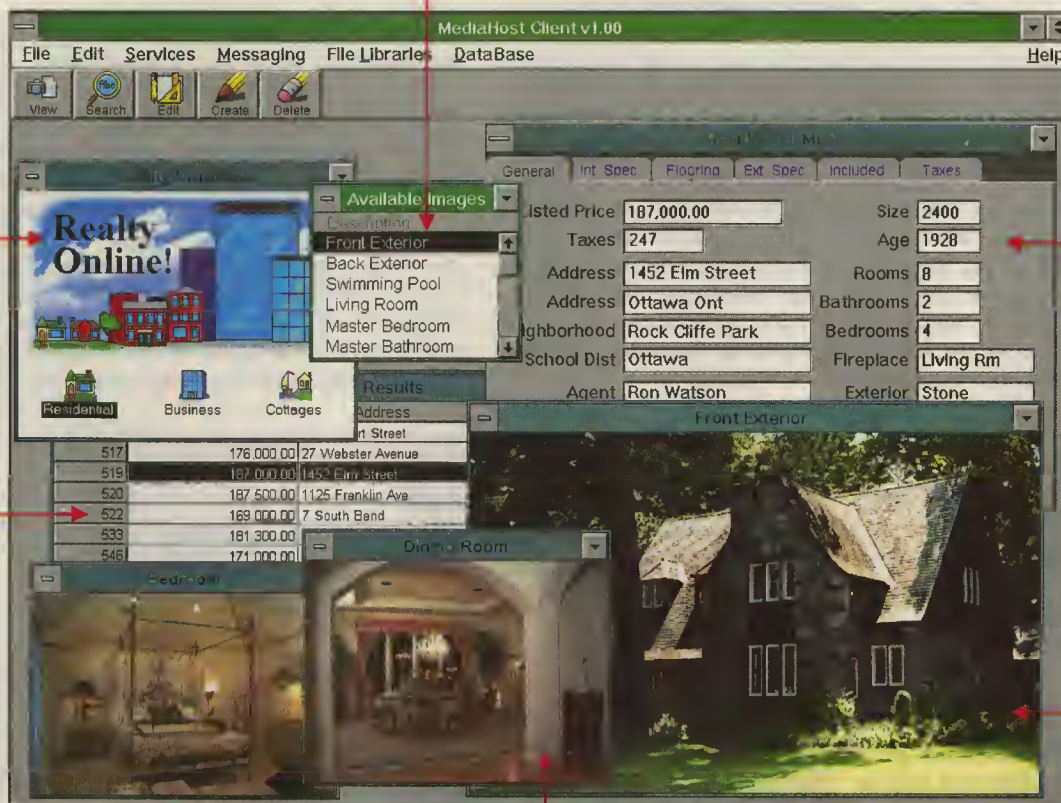
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- Integrates with MediaHost ordering interface.



AMERICA ONLINE by Dave Tennant

ADDING LANES ON AOL's INFORMATION ROADWAY

With a Little Help from Their Friends, America Online is getting help from new business allies and giving help to subscribers, as well.

February and hopefully has resolved the e-mail issues. With regard to the high speed access question, here's what one finds when you keyword HIGH SPEED or ACCESS.

AOL has purchased Advanced Network and Services Inc. (ANS), an Internet service provider, to increase access lines to the Internet now serviced by AOL's longtime provider, Sprintnet. AOL is presently beta testing this new avenue into the service, a method, which provides direct Internet access to AOL through their new service AOLnet (available for both Windows and Macintosh). AOLnet will give the user faster, and according to sources, a more reliable connection process. Any subscriber can be a beta tester (if it is still in test at the time of publication). Keyword HIGH SPEED, ACCESS or AOLnet and download the program. Be sure to

read your modem manual for specific settings. Also, be sure to click DOWNLOAD NOW and not DOWNLOAD LATER, because you will save charges for downloading from the free area. Subscribers will still be able to access Sprintnet or other networks from their setup selections. What is perhaps the best news

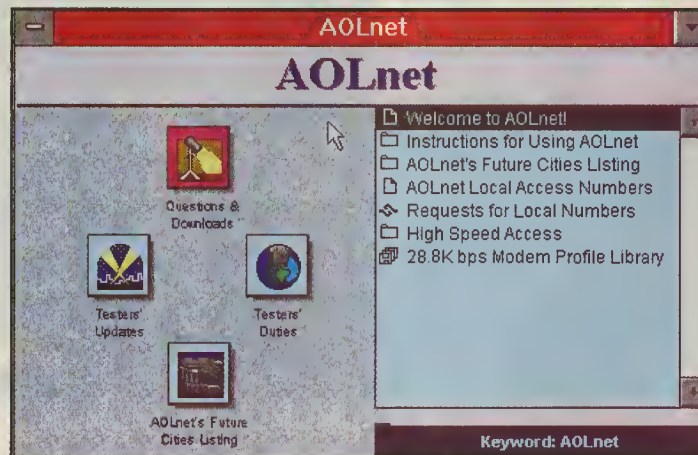
is that AOL isn't going to charge an extra premium for using faster access lines the way some other online services do. One of the negatives is that during the upgrade process, the program only transfers 500K of the artwork available in your old version. Consequently, every new area that you regularly visit will have to be updated with the new art. It's a hassle and AOL is aware of it but at least you're downloading at faster access speeds. AOL mentioned in some of their literature that they are thinking of putting all the artwork in the free area.

Some users have reported that while they are connected at 28.8 bps, the file transfer information shows only 9600 bps. Check the number in step three in the connection process to make sure the connection is at 28.8 bps, regardless of what the file information says, and the transfer rate will be at

Seeing growth on the Internet as an opportunity and not a threat, America Online (NASDAQ: AMER) is set to introduce two new (albeit late) ways of accessing its service. AOL's WEB Browser should be available online sometime this month, while AOLnet, currently in beta test, is available now to provide speeds of up to 28.8 baud. Moreover, following in the footsteps of other service providers, AOL will also introduce *Navigator*, a monthly magazine aimed at providing users with information about the services, features and news available on the utility.

AOL is late to the game with getting its much anticipated Web browser online. Especially since Prodigy currently offers one and CompuServe introduced their browser last month. CompuServe purchased Spry (Internet in a Box) and got a jump on AOL. Nevertheless, AOL's browser may just be worth the wait to subscribers, because it will be the first to integrate with the online service features. AOL subscribers will be able to interact effortlessly with WWW, FTP, Gopher and AOL services simultaneously. Using recently acquired BookLink's HTML standard, which will give AOL the ability to provide users the same easy-to-use interface to access the full suite of Internet tools. If you don't want to wait, though you might also want to look for the AOL Web site, which should soon be available at <http://www.blue.aol.com> (AOL is still shaking some bugs out at present time).

Criticism has been leveled at AOL, of late, for the slowness in its e-mail system, and the lack of high speed access ports to cities around the nation. The e-mail problem is understandable given the terrific growth the service has experienced in just two short years. AOL went through a system upgrade in



Dave Tennant is an Economics and English Instructor in Southern California. He can be reached on America Online at "Dtennan" or on the Internet at dtennan@els.calstate.edu

this number. Meanwhile, AOL is also working on a fix for the readout error.

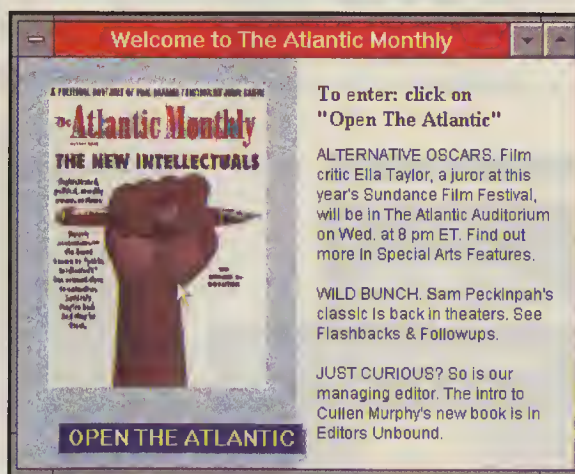
Game players are also having problems as well with such AOL offerings as *Neverwinter Nights* and the *Casino* if AOLnet is used as the network carrier. AOL suggests clicking on Beginners' Corner in the *Casino* (keyword CASINO). Hopefully, the inclusion of the ANS will allow for higher speed access points for AOL players.

AOL'S NAVIGATOR

Next month AOL's subsidiary Redgate Communications Inc. will launch Navigator in June, a "lifestyle magazine" for AOL multimedia enthusiasts. The magazine is touted as another way for subscribers to find whatever they are looking for on America Online. AOL sources stated in a press release that Navigator will have 500,000 initial copies made on a quarterly basis until the publication finds its pace, when it will become a monthly magazine. This will be a welcome edition for many of the over two million subscribers, who are currently signed on to AOL, but need more information about how to use its wide array of services. The question will be whether members will want to pay an extra fee for a subscription to the magazine. At present time, no figures were available on the subscription price. Still, with AOL soon to bring out its new fully integrated Internet service, there will be more to the AOL product to explore and Navigator will help AOL keep its ease-of-use reputation.

Speaking of magazines, AOL has added a few more to their already rich collection and thanks to their updated multimedia software, the magazines look better than ever. *Entertainment Week*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *Business Week* have all joined the AOL magazine family. All AOL magazine offerings allow the reader to read online, download the text files or pictures, leave e-mail comments to the editor and search all databases for past

issues and articles. *Time* has just re-upped with AOL, and the *New York Times* has just finished revamping its look so they are — as always — worth checking out.



And finally, AOL has joined with Bertelsmann AG, the second largest media group in Europe. The companies are said to be planning a joint venture to create an online service to compete

with Luxembourg-based Europe Online, the current leading service provider in Europe. AOL and Bertelsmann will offer AOL-type online access in Germany, France, and Britain, with other parts of Europe to be added later, but the overall plan is to offer services in other parts of the world, as well. Some industry observers have speculated that this move is intended to beat Microsoft to the punch with the proposed and hopefully not postponed release of Windows 95, with its built-in Internet software and connection to the new Microsoft network. AOL's president Steve Case has been very vocal in the media of late with his criticism

that Microsoft has too much of an unfair advantage in marketing its own Internet service ¾ to be built into the next release of Windows. Bertelsmann stated in a press release it will take a 5 percent stake in AOL through a \$50 million issue of new shares, retain an option for one year to increase its holding to 10 percent and appoint a Bertelsmann executive to hold a seat on AOL's board. The deal will give AOL \$50 million in capital investment, as well as access to Bertelsmann's U.S. holdings, including RCA and Arista Records, publishers Doubleday, Bantam, and Dell and magazines such as *McCall's*, and *Family Circle*. Online competition in Europe, as reported by Cowles, also includes Italia Online backed by Olivetti, Rupert Murdoch's Delphi Internet Ltd. and CompuServe, which has been aggressively pursuing international members. ♦

COMPU SERVE

by Wallace Wang

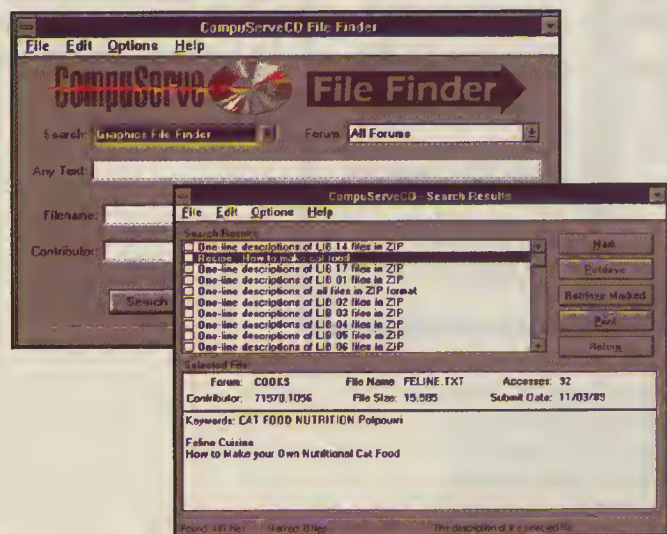
There's good news and bad news for CompuServe. The bad news is CompuServe is now the second most popular online service after arch rival America Online. The good news is that in an effort to prevent the lemming-like rush to America Online, CompuServe has introduced drastic price cuts effective since February.

Instead of the old system that rewarded slow modems with cheaper rates and punished faster modems with higher ones, CompuServe has initiated what amounts to a flat rate for all modem speeds. From now on, all connect time charges are \$4.80 per hour, whether you're using the latest gee-whiz 28.8K modem or an ancient 300 baud antique.

In addition, the Standard Pricing Plan now allows members to send the equivalent of 90, three-page electronic mail messages at no charge (compared to 60 messages previously). Of course, mail received from the Internet incurs a surcharge although it's still free to send mail to an Internet address.

Naturally, monthly CompuServe membership rates have jumped by \$1, from \$8.95 to \$9.95. However, to offset this price increase, your basic membership now includes free access to over 100 basic services, which won't incur any connect time charges. To get a list of these basic services included in your \$9.95 monthly free, use the GO CHOICES keyword. (Of course, accessing forums STILL incurs a connect time charge. Are you confused yet?)

If you want to experience the joys of CompuServe without racking up expensive connect time charges in the process, the CompuServe CD is now available for both Windows and Macintosh users. The price has dropped to \$5.95 and each bi-monthly CD includes the File Finder, which lets you search for files stored on CompuServe without actually connecting to CompuServe. Once you've found the files you're looking for using the CompuServe CD, you can dial into CompuServe, make a bee-line straight for that file, and disconnect as quickly as possible to avoid excessive connect time charges.



NEW FORUMS DEBUT

Like the urban sprawl of Los Angeles, CompuServe's cyberspace landscape changes almost daily. The most recent additions to CompuServe include a new Windows utility forum and a World Community forum.

The Windows Utilities forum (GO WINUTIL) provides (what else?) Windows utilities such as uninstallers, file manager add-ons, editors, diagnostic tools, programs to make Windows NT more stable (Now how about a utility to make MS-DOS more stable?), as well as an initial sampling of utilities being developed to enhance Windows 95. By studying the Windows 95 utilities, you can see what features Windows 95 will lack and get an idea how ordinary people will still find Windows 95 confusing and difficult to use.

The World Community forum (GO WCOMMUNITY) is the first multi-lingual forum available on any online service. As one of the few online services with an international presence, CompuServe regularly receives calls from people in North America, South America and Europe. While many CompuServe members know English, a sizable number use Spanish, French or German.



To overcome the language barriers that may keep an English-speaking member from chatting with a Spanish-speaking member, the World Community Forum offers automatic computer translations. Write a message in English and CompuServe automatically translates your message into French, German and Spanish. Now you can send messages to someone in France without knowing a single word of French, and they can write back without knowing a single word of English.

In the World Community forum you can meet and chat about travel (is it faster to cross the English channel by ferry or by the Chunnel?), health (how come Europe won't buy American meat laced with growth hormones?), business (how many 28 year-olds does it take to bring a British bank to its knees?), education (do American high school students really have a hard time identifying the United States on a map or are they just plain stupid?), television and movies (why don't foreign porno movies ever need sub-

titles?), sports (are British soccer fans really more dangerous than Israeli commandos?) and more. The forum also offers sections where members can share opinions on local and global current events and issues, as well as sections for learning more about any region of the world, its people, culture and languages.

For those file hounds, the World Community forum file section contains digitized photographs of interesting worldwide locations (in case you've always wanted to see the Swiss Alps without actually flying there) and text files describing places to see in different cities such as Paris, Amsterdam and New York (in case you actually get a chance to visit another city some day).



CompuServe originally tested the idea of machine-language translation several years ago in the MacCIM support forum. When the technology proved itself, Mike Schoenbach, the forum sysop, convinced CompuServe to create the World Community forum. According to Schoenbach, the World Community forum is "a tool to enhance interaction between people."

Mike happily notes that the typical World Community forum user is brand new to CompuServe and is most interested in communicating with people of different backgrounds on a wide range of topics including religion, politics and travel. The ultimate goal of the World Community forum is to allow anyone to freely communicate regardless of their native language.

Of course, you have to remember that machine-language translation isn't perfect, but it's certainly a lot easier than flipping through a foreign language dictionary and trying to piece together a coherent message in another language by yourself.

The World Community forum actually consists of four separate forums, an English-speaking forum (GO EWCFORUM), a Spanish-speaking forum (GO SWCFORUM), a French-speaking forum (GO FWCFORUM) and a German-speaking forum (GO GWCFORUM). Just remember that if you visit the French-speaking forum that you have to write in French (otherwise CompuServe's computers will get confused if you type a message in German and store it in the French-speaking forum).

If you're thinking about traveling overseas, or just like having international pen pals who don't know your language, visit the World Community forum today.

FTP ACCESS

As part of its slow acceptance that they better offer access to the Internet or risk losing even more customers to America Online, CompuServe recently introduced FTP access (GO FTP) to the Internet. Essentially, this feature lets you use CompuServe as a gateway to the Internet. (Note: You can only use FTP access if you're using WinCIM, DOSCIM or MacCIM. If you're using a general purpose communications program like PROCOMM PLUS for Windows, you'll never be able to use FTP access through CompuServe no matter how hard you may scream or complain.)

To help CompuServe users make their first bold steps into the vast unknowns of the Internet, CompuServe also provides two separate Internet forums: the Internet New Users forum (GO INETFORUM) and the Internet Resources forum (GO INETRESOURCES).

The New Users forum is the place to learn about arcane Internet topics as newsgroups, deciphering Internet addresses and how FTP works. The Resources forum is the place to look for electronic books about the Internet and Internet access tools such as Winsock and Mosaic.

Of course, FTP access to the Internet isn't quite the same thing as complete access to the Internet. But for casual Internet users who wish to explore the Internet without going through a separate Internet provider, CompuServe's FTP access may be sufficient. Just remember that normal \$4.80 per hour

connect time charges apply when cruising the Internet through CompuServe.

PROCOMM PLUS FOR WINDOWS 2.11 UPDATE

If you're using PROCOMM PLUS for Windows version 2.0, you'll be happy to know that Datastorm Technologies has just released version 2.11. Best of all, you can get the update for free through the Datastorm forum (GO DATASTORM).

There are two updates available: one is for updating version 2.0 and the other is for updating version 2.10. The update for version 2.0 users is called PW211.EXE (1,265,018 bytes) and the update for version 2.10 users is called 210211.EXE (263,556 bytes). To find out which version of PROCOMM PLUS for Windows you may be using, press Alt+F10 and PROCOMM PLUS will display a typical "About" dialog box, listing the exact version you have.

Basically, version 2.11 of PROCOMM PLUS for Windows offers FTP file transfers, file viewing and simple disk management over TCP/IP connections. The new version's dialing directory can now contain IP addresses or alphanumeric site names instead of telephone numbers.

If Datastorm is smart, they'll gradually turn PROCOMM PLUS for Windows into a complete Internet browser along the lines of Mosaic. That way they'll be able to capture their bread and butter BBS market as well as the exploding Internet market. If they ignore the Internet for too long, PROCOMM PLUS might just wind up in the same level of obscurity as VisiCalc and Wordstar.

For those who use PROCOMM PLUS to access CompuServe, version 2.11 also offers a number of new features just for CompuServe users including the ability to track messages, the ability to rebuild corrupted message links, and an option to compact message files to save disk space. But considering the fact that you can't use PROCOMM PLUS's new FTP features to access CompuServe's new FTP access, you'll have to access the Internet another way. (Aren't computers fun?) ♦

The Professional BBS Service Bureau

Bulletin Board Systems (BBS) are fast becoming a vital tool for information exchange in corporations, associations, government and other professional organizations. Yet the learning curve and related costs for an in-house installation are steep. Not to mention the staffing required for continuous user support.

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APDI operates dozens of successful professional BBSes. We assist in all phases of the project from BBS design to implementation to user support. APDI selects the BBS software which best fits your application. We also provide your users with multiple connect options including toll call, 800 number, Internet, and CompuServe's x.25 packet switching access. We can even allow access to your BBS via a World Wide Web Home Page! We have hundreds of fiber optic phone lines and will assign to your system the number you need. Call us today and find out why APDI is the nation's leading Professional BBS Service Bureau.



Mark Burnett at APDI's BBS Service Bureau

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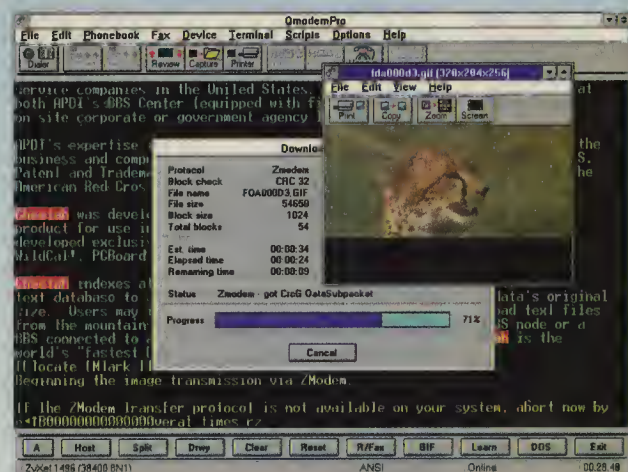
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DIRECT DIAL

SYSTEM IN THE GLADE

by Larry Rauh

BBSes fill a vital niche in the cyberspatial ecology: they are often the first form of online life to appear in "digital deserts" like Mexia, (pronounced Ma-Hay-ah) Texas, population 7,500. Sysop Carl Haddick is determined to bring the Internet to the this rural area, starting with his two-line Galaticomm BBS, The System in the Glade (817-562-9785 or 817-562-7472). Mexia is not technology-deprived; it has a telephone company, a radio station, a newspaper and a cable television company. If Haddick has his way, he will become the local Internet Service Provider (ISP).

The System in the Glade runs on "a scrapped 486/33 computer with two 14.4 Zooms," says Haddick. The BBS offers free Internet e-mail through a UUCP account using the Major Gateway/Internet and Xnet — an ISP located in Lisle, Illinois. The system went online in August of 1994 running the shareware program TriBBS; Haddick-switched to the Galaticomm platform in December. A feature story in the local newspaper in January, 1995, boosted The System in the Glade's caller base from eight to seventy-five people.

Many callers use the system to send e-mail to their children away at colleges around the country, and that's just what Haddick wants. He plans to keep offering free access to get residents accustomed to having Internet access. Eventually, he will charge a small fee to support a 56K leased line.

The system focuses on law, communications and politics. There are 4,000 files on the system of which approximately 3,800 are President Clinton's press releases. There are also copies of the Clinton Health Care Plan, Newt Gingrich's *Republican Contract with America*, and The John Birch Society's *The New American*. Twenty-seven United Nations documents include the text of many resolutions, the U.N.

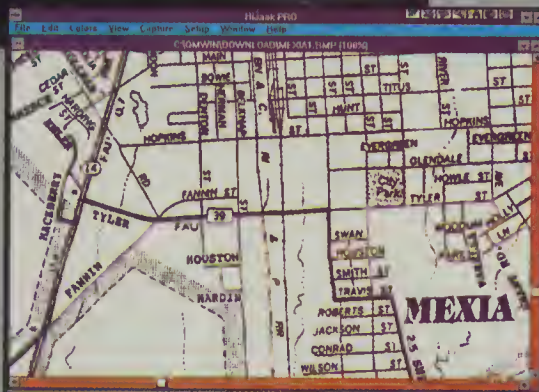
Charter, GATT treaty information, and NAFTA information. There are several files concerning the Brady (gun-control) Bill.

Haddick supplies *USA Today Online* in several downloadable forms: text, self-extracting archive, and standards PKZip. The options accomodate users who do not have or don't want to bother with archive utilities.

There are no Usenet newsgroups at this time, but five local conferences are available — one each for MS-DOS and BBS discussions, National Rifle Association updates, American Cybercasting movie reviews (including reviews of local showings) and a graffiti area where users can post anything. But the



Carl Haddick & BBS



majority of postings are Internet e-mail; over 13,300 messages went out over the 'Net in the last three months.

- SYSTEM IN THE GLADE
- WEST COAST CONNECTION
- ORION STATION

The Graphics file library offers a wide array of images emphasis on politicians, guns, planes, scenery, the Nazi concentration camp Dachau and computer art. There is even a bitmap of the town Mexia (mexia1.bmp).

The BBS also offers dial-out services, allowing users to call other BBSes on Haddick's nickel. By selecting "D" at the main menu a user can call another board from his BBS. I had Haddick set up the number for Boardwatch so I could try this feature, and it worked flawlessly. After a moment of **connecting**, I was soon typing in my name at Boardwatch Magazine's BBS and looking at the five new messages I had in my e-mail box. Then I hit "G" the good-bye command at Boardwatch, and soon I was back to Mexia. Of course, only one user at a time can use the dial-out feature, since it ties up the only other phone line.

Haddick discovered a "magic question" while shopping for an Internet connection: ask your leased-line service provider to apply **FCC tariff 73** to your order. It seems that the 2,453-page tariff applies to all data communications that cross state lines — making it applicable to all Internet connections. The big difference is what you will pay for your connection. The price of a 56K line in Haddick's area dropped from **\$661** to **234.50** per month with the simple phrase of "I would like to apply the FCC Tariff 73."

Even though this system might be small in comparison to many boards nationally, it is an oasis in this rural desert for BBSers and Interneters. And it gives this area its only nutrient to sustain Internet life. Haddick also shares his knowledge on a weekly radio talk show where he discusses computer matters on an computer automated FM 104.9 titled KYCX Online, which airs at 9:30 A.M. locally and reaches a radius of 45 miles around the Mexia area, according to Haddick.

Haddick works as a programmer for Mexia State School — a branch of the Texas Department of Mental Health and the largest employer in a 120 mile radius of Mexia. If you would like to leave Haddick e-mail his address is **carl@mexia.com**. You can write him at P.O. Box 1586, Mexia, Texas 76667. Haddick is becoming quite the inventor of loop holes in the telecommunication system this country has to offer. Including his Tariff 73 word game, you might also want to ask him a little bit about cellular phones, Sprint and call forwarding. He comes up with some very creative things sitting down there in Texas.

WEST COAST CONNECTION

by Larry Rauh

While surfing the net this month we washed up on the eastern shores of the Pacific Ocean in the free state of California at a BBS that has a long and successful history. The West Coast Connection, based in El Cajon, California, placed 73rd in the 1994 Boardwatch Readers' Choice Contest. All callers can log on at **619-449-8333**. If you are located in San Diego county, you can also access the system toll free by dialing **619-993-8408**. The system supports nine incoming lines; five are open to the public and four are available to members only. Seven lines sport U.S. Robotics 14.4 modems and the

remaining two lines are connected to Zoom 14.4 modems. The system supports 900 paying members and an additional 1,500 validated non-members, using four 486 DX2 66 computers running PcBoard 15.1 on a Lantastic network.

The West Coast Connection offers a lot of everything. There are 54 file areas on disks housing two gigabytes of software (including California-grown adult images), plus four CD-ROMs that store another 35,000 files. File area 27 is a list-keepers paradise. Here you will find lists of BBSes providing 1-800 access, boards that sport 9600-bps and faster modems, telnetable and Rlogin BBSes, a business/professional BBS list and various Southern California BBS lists. The lists are in zipped files and are mighty in many cases to say the least. Shareware is equally as mighty on this board.

The West Coast Connection offers several membership packages. The most popular subscription costs **\$35** per year and entitles the member to two hours per day of time online, five megs of downloading a day, Internet e-mail, 300 news-groups, and access to adult areas. For the user who isn't looking for such a long term commitment the board offers a three month package for **\$15**, including 75 minutes a day and three megs of download. A six month package for **\$25** includes 90 minutes a day and four megabytes of downloading. These two packages also include access to adult areas. The system has received over 150,000 calls since its incarnation as The West Coast Connection two years ago, but this BBS has a decade of history.

Founder Don Presten has come along way since he started BBSing and sysoping in the San Francisco Bay area. Back in 1985, he operated the Fremont Flyer, named after its home town of Fremont, California. The Flyer was a one-line 1200 bps BBS running on an Osborne CP/M machine with a 10 Mb of hard drive. Preston laughs as he remembers days: "I still have that old machine my uncle gave me; maybe I will donate it someday." At that time, the Fremont Flyer was a messaging system. where callers could attach ascii text files on to the main BBS text file, which held only centralized public e-mail messaging.

Preston was transferred by the Nave in 1989, taking him and his BBS to the San Diego area. He renamed it the Balleyhoo, upgraded to an IBM 286 with two nodes, and added RIME echomail. He ran Wildcat! software for about six months and then switched to PC Board about the time he fired up the second line.

Then on April 1, 1993, he renamed the board the West Coast Connection, upgraded to three 386 CPUs, and expanded to four lines. The board soon grew to become one of the nation's top BBSes. Today, Preston is assisted by cosysops Steve Haines and Richard Moyer.

West Coast Connection is celebrating its second anniversary with a party for members and staff. In fact, this BBS has turned into a place where many of the users have initiated "club-like" activities and social gatherings. The board, as well being a nice social corner, also offers new users and renewal users a "raffle-type" drawing that gives away some fairly valuable prizes. In the past, they have given away computers, modems, and a choice of dinner at a local restaurant, a \$100 CompUSA gift certificate, a Focus 9,000



Don Presten - SysOp at the WCC office



Professional Keyboard, Logitech cordless Mouse and a Cirrus Logic SGVA 1-Mb video card. Each round of drawings awards two prizes, one to a new member and one to a renewal member; not a bad way to attract the types of users sysops want and need.

Out of the over 1,000 mail conferences available on the board, Presten holds area number nine close to his heart. The motorcycle conference is where members plan over-the-road motorcycle trips. Presten, with his Yamaha Virago 1100, and 40-50 BBS members often take bike trips through California and Mexico. The motorcycle club is looking forward to their May excursion to the San Felipe area of Mexico.

West Coast Connection offers something for everyone. In addition to the large collection of local BBS listings, all the latest shareware files, the social gatherings and over 1,000 mail conferences with over 30,000 new messages daily. They carry the RIME and ILINK conferences and Internet e-mail. "A solid, reliable system for the BBS professional with a relaxing atmosphere that welcomes all new users," Presten said when summing up his BBS in a nut (sea) shell.

For further information on this board or the lists it contains please contact: Don Presten, 1594 Fayette Street, El Cajon, CA. 92020, voice BBS line 619-449-8408 or fax 619-448-5194, or you can e-mail him at sysop@wcoast.cts.com. ♦

ORION STATION

by Larry Rauh

This month's BBS listkeeper presents a striking contrast between physical isolation and electronic connectivity. The Orion Station BBS (360-675-0565) resides in Oak Harbor, Washington, perched atop Whidbey Island, one ferry trip or two island-hopping bridges from the mainland. But sysop Art Tomlin keeps his 300 callers in the Puget Sound area well connected to each other and the rest of the world.

The two-line VBBS board sports four echomail networks, a Planet Connect satellite feed providing Usenet newsgroups, weather and sports data, and daily doses of new shareware by the megabyte.

The hardware includes the two U.S. Robotics Sportster 14.4 internal modems, a 486DX2/66 for the main line, a 386DX/40 on line 2, and another 386 as the Planet Connect mail/file server. Netware Lite v1.1 ties them all together.

Tomlin, a 15-year Navy man whose handle is "Cap'n," also compiles the Puget Sound BBS List, drawn from the 206 and the recently-added 360 Area Codes. The 387-entry list is one of the easiest lists to access in the BBS community. All a caller needs to do is type BBSLIST at the "docking id" (user name) prompt and BBSLIST at the "command code" (password) prompt. With zero fuss, you are asked what protocol you are using to download. Before you know it you have the list and then the system drops carrier, "saving you that extra dime," Tomlin said.

Tomlin started the list about a year ago when he realized the need for an accurate and updated BBS list for the



Scott King (QUESTOR) Art Tomlin (Cap'n) Carol(CJ) Mike Dean (Dino)

Seattle area. He searched FidoNet, VirtualNET and EmeraldNet to compile a lengthy and thorough list of BBSes. He categorizes the list by the most prominent network affiliate in its associated area code.

Orion Station is strongly message-oriented by design. Tomlin keeps relatively few files online (about 2,000) and imposes a 500 Kb/day downloading limit on users who do not contribute to the message base. "I really don't care for people who just jump on the board, mark a bunch of files and walk away as

an hour's worth of downloads take place," he allows. The heavy emphasis on person-to-person communication keeps Orion Station true to its motto, "a place where strange and unusual people run into each other on their way

somewhere else" and gives this board a unique character all its own.

Tomlin started the Orion Station in October of 1993 and has kept it up and running with only one crash, November of 1994, when he did lose a few users. Tomlin has three cosysops: Scott King, Carol Cole and Mike Dean, who all have their own local boards as well. These four people share the various tasks of running the board and weed out any old users from the database. Tomlin is fairly liberal when it comes to weeding out users who haven't called in a while, because many of the users are Navy personnel who can only call when they are at port.

Tomlin is currently finishing up his bachelors degree in computer information systems. "I have one wife, Tracey, two vehicles, three computers, four children and five acres," he said. He

believes he eventually will supervise an aircraft electronics maintenance shop at Whidbey's Naval Air Station, where he currently goes to school as a part of a six year deal with the Navy — in which he must give four years of service back to them.

Tomlin plans to switch to PC Board software, which he believes is one of the best packages for his conference-oriented needs.

This gregarious sysop welcomes e-mail from anyone, anywhere. "If you can not get a hold of me at these addresses you are not on this planet," Tomlin said: 1:3401/202 or /200 FidoNet; VirtualNET @1360016; EmeraldNet @1206001; PowerNet @2; and Internet e-mail Cap'n@net-works.com. ♦



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The CourtYard	360-254-5071	[T]he [R]eal [W]orld BBS	360-613-0178
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		Cedar Board BBS	360-786-5118
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Pains Point BBS	360-264-5942	The Alien Workshop	360-653-7278
The Pub	360-456-1195	The Acropolis	360-675-3777
Le Maison De Metal	360-493-0798	Circuit's Edge	360-793-9645
The Pinnacle Of The West	360-491-8097	The Free Clinic BBS	360-678-3172
The Annex	360-705-2335	Writer's Workshop	360-693-6147
The Twisted Mind BBS	360-493-1725	Dino's Dog House	360-679-6971
Skagit Bay BBS	360-466-5305	The Castle BBS	360-679-2860
The Missing Link Node 1	360-826-3513	The Dragon's Lair [VSB]	360-675-4277
The Missing Link Node 2	360-826-3201	The Fun House	360-675-7531
Thee Landing Zone BBS	360-336-5915	The Continuum	360-379-8833
Cyclotron BBS	360-428-3506		
Quiet Place BBS	360-755-9644	FIDONET (MISCELLANEOUS BBS TYPES)	
North Cascades EchoMail	360-445-5444	AREACODE 206	
Cyber Skyline	360-856-1840	Tacoma Echos	206-565-0271
Twin Towers	360-757-8946	ArcticNet	206-565-9740
Four Aces	360-466-2237	Awakening	206-582-5579
Just Another BBS	360-826-5413	The Total Access Board	206-472-9611
MICROTOWN BBS	360-853-8114	North End Skyscraper	206-756-9689
Orion Station	360-675-0565	AmoCat BBS	206-566-1166
Reflections West	360-679-2223	Keithley Komputer Korner	206-752-8968
Dino's Doghouse BBS	360-679-6971	The Eagles BBS	206-531-8304
The Fun House	360-675-7531	Outdoor Focus	206-565-7730
The Dragon's Lair	360-675-4277	King's Dominion	206-843-2817
The Loony Bin	360-675-3320	The Right Place	206-565-8853
CJ's Cat House BBS	360-675-7176	Jamaica Farewell!	206-847-4686
The Fifth Corner	360-650-1152	The Last Frontier	206-847-8168
The Estate	360-650-5334	The BoardRoom BBS	206-584-3825
The Galleria	360-671-6534	John's Genes	206-756-5160
The Winston Cup	360-371-2276	The ATTACK LINE	206-840-2445
The Lost Archives	360-366-5102	The Cats' Paws	206-584-7895
The Outer limits	360-671-7427	The Looking Glass	206-535-8917
Meme	360-647-7173	Lakewood Fire Department	206-840-2066
Darkstar System	360-578-1157	The Electric Flamingo	206-473-6561
Rob's Wreck Room	360-578-1948	Moody Blues	206-893-3101
T B T Network	360-577-4385	Pacific Paradise BBS	206-473-4338
Longview On-Line Node1	360-577-0187	TRENDS!	206-863-5877
NightHawk BBS	360-423-1748	Centaur Aisle	206-581-0298
Short Circuit BBS	360-577-7985	This Old House	206-475-2108
Byte This BBS	360-636-1392	Pookabum's Hideout	206-565-0638
Ultimate BBS	360-414-3188	The Space/Time Continuum	206-536-1528
Longview On-Line Node 2	360-577-0276	ISMC Oeric II	206-535-3697
Dragon's Lair	360-425-2132	Employer's Network	206-475-0665
Everybody's BBS	360-577-0107	NWdABBS	206-539-0704
The Old West BBS	360-482-5062	the HOUSE of ANDY	206-588-6522
Techline BBS	360-249-5372	TECH ONE BBS	206-537-6940
Hanger 18 BBS	360-538-0381	Damian Johnson	206-847-4553
The Blue Knight BBS	360-533-0260	The Peachy Keeno Inn	206-539-0804
		South Tacoma Amiga Group	206-537-9728
		S-A-G-N - BBS	206-862-4929
		The Dragon's Cave	206-752-4160
VIRTUALNET (VBBS) AREA CODE 360			
Police Academy BBS(RC9)	360-679-4532		

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Quackrr's Spaced Aackaademmy	206-770-0980	The Highlander	206-565-5816
The Phoenix Reborn	206-759-7601	The PowerSoft Connection	206-589-8429
Ghostly Image	206-927-6198	Lesser Seattle Opera	206-244-9661
Snubber's Spot	206-841-2692	Treasurer	206-742-1597
The Higher Ground	206-884-5200	NEC 343 Clearing House	206-527-0733
Cruiser BBS	206-832-4924	Pascal Alley	206-222-6224
The Playhouse BBS	206-964-3425	Sno-Valley Software Exchange	206-688-0375
Foul Play BBS	206-862-0195	The Powerhouse BBS	206-886-0973
The Mortuary Inn	206-841-1525	East Seattle Hub	206-822-4293
The EDge	206-984-1461	Glacier Peak Rainbow	206-644-8431
NITE-TIME AFFAIRS	206-588-7440	Images Inc	206-861-5914
Tequila Sunrise	206-847-3513	The Precedent	206-603-0354
ELC BBS	206-535-9514	INFINITE T.A.R.D.I.S.	206-881-6821
The PumpHouse BBS	206-537-4527	The Tocatta BBS	206-868-5924
Silky-C's One Stop Shop	206-473-7664	The Blind Pig	206-525-7863
The Focal Point	206-564-9044	BECS Opus	206-451-1274
The BoardRoom BBS II	206-584-3829	Media Host NorthWest	206-363-4930
Knight-Line!	206-565-0696	ShowBiz	206-747-2981
Tacoma Recovery BBS	206-589-3820	AsiaNet BBS	206-527-6533
Infrared Rose	206-537-0806	OS/2 Northwest	206-747-6451
The "Dark Masters" BBS	206-846-8312	Grey Matter	206-528-1941
We Be Games BBS	206-536-0534	Olympus-Hermes Support	206-641-6767
Permanent Crew Rest	206-472-6805	MIDIoholic	206-938-5861
Trinet BBS	206-770-7307	PIPELINE BBS	206-641-7756
The Nuthouse BBS	206-841-3197	GAMES-R-US BBS	206-822-4293
GreyHounds BBS	206-862-7715	Vantage Point BBS	206-821-3902
The Lost And The Damned	206-473-6010	Binkley's Bar&Grill	206-868-7581
The Land Of Oz	206-473-1788	The ARMOR OF GOD	206-440-7499
My Desk	206-845-2418	Seattle Central	206-742-1597
The Cop-Out BBS	206-472-4069	SSC	206-788-2607
Alpha's Attic	206-272-8083	Experiment	206-526-5417
The Cubby Hole	206-383-1252	The Mage's Tower	206-485-7170
The ISLAND BBS	206-582-1597	Silverfox's Den	206-742-1597
Big Boy's Toys BBS	206-862-8896	Alki Express	206-933-8738
Renegade's Roost	206-964-4209	L A W Bbs	206-728-2887
The Neutral Zone	206-473-1177	The STAGE	206-286-8047
American Tuff-A-Nuff BBS	206-472-7059	Northwest Nurse	206-524-8853
Kildosphere BBS	206-272-6061	Cala Creek Resort	206-483-4631
Knight-Line! Mail-Only Node	206-565-2470	Intermittent Open	206-782-7674
FreeFall BBS	206-843-1996	The Info Box	206-485-0354
MAXNet	206-566-9521	Cygnus X-1 BBS	206-481-9582
The Wolf's Den	206-584-4309	Sidhe Mail	206-241-7899
Head Cleric's Realm	206-589-6710	Migrant BBS	206-775-4065
Terra X	206-564-8605	Arvandor	206-524-9210
Dwarf Star BBS	206-535-1861	Seattle West	206-439-6342
Dimensional Software	206-964-8061	Lk Sawyer Ski Naked	206-413-1451
The Dude Ranch	206-458-2382	The Stardock	206-431-1243
Outer Limits	206-471-2490	Puget Sound TBBS	206-743-0162
The Mage's Library	206-272-4760	SeaEast PC Exchange	206-822-4615
The Rock BBS	206-759-2079	Top Hat	206-244-9661
Turbo {X}-Press BBS	206-536-9935	Bermuda Triangle	206-771-8420
The He-Man BBS	206-964-4835	Cherry City	206-241-8894
T.C.C. BBS	206-474-0931	Ixion Support Bbs	206-281-1936

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List of BBS List Keepers

This listing comprises a list of those who compile and maintain lists of bulletin boards, either by topical category, or by some geographic area or definition - often by area code. The primary bulletin board system where the list can be downloaded electronically is also included.

BBSLIST TOPIC	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
New Jersey BBS's	Scott Drake	T.E.R.N. BBS	(201)399-4772
Connecticut AC 203	Kevin Brook	Creative Edge BBS	(203)743-4044
BBS With Handicapped Focus	Bill McGarry	Handicap News BBS	(203)926-6168
Manitoba Canada AC 204	Victor Laking	Generic BBS	(204)475-5199
West Washington AC 206	Bob Dinse/Nanook	Eskimo North	(206)367-3837
Tacoma Washington AC 206	Richard Langsford	AmoCat BBS	(206)566-1155
Puget Sound Area AC 206	Art Tomlin	Orion Station	(206)675-0565
Kitsap County Washington	Michael Schuyler	Quicksilver BBS	(206)780-2011
Maine 207	Scott R. Bodeen	Street Corner BBS	(207)442-0997
Modesto CA AC 209	Chris Mitchell, "Gomba"	Anything Goes	(209)491-0782
Central California AC 209	Jack Porter/Madera UG	Zen Den Systems	(209)675-8436
San Antonio TX AC 210	Donna Murrell	Main Complex BBS	(210)658-8009
Graphical User Interface BBS	David Shapiro	The Gooley (GUI) BBS	(212)876-5885
96 List - 9600+bps BBS	Ken Sukimoto	Downtown BBS	(213)484-0260
Employment BBS's	George Smith	Executive Connection	(214)306-3393
Dallas/Ft.Worth BBS List	Mark Elson/Mike Shockley	Blues Cafe	(214)638-1181
Open Access UNIX Site List	Phil Eschallier	LGNP1 (login:BBS)	(215)348-9727
Cleveland Area 216	Jim Barry	Flip Flop	(216)951-9134
Educational and Indiana BBS	Joe McIntosh	KSI Public BBS	(219)626-2150
Conservation/Nature BBS List	D.Wendling/JS Christianso	Coin of the Realm	(301)585-6697
Ham/Amateur Radio BBS	Stan Staten	3WINKs BBS	(301)590-9629
Handicapped Issues BBS	Richard Barth	HEX BBS	(301)593-7357
Desktop Publishing BBS	Frank Atlee	Infinite Perspective	(301)924-0398
Delaware AC 302	Vince Boehm/Dave Osburn	Talk Radio BBS	(302)429-7667
Colorado AC 303/719	Willis Morrow	Big Boy's BBS	(303)458-3832
Cave Exploration BBSs	Douglas L. Moore II	The CatEye BBS	(304)592-3390
South Florida Area 305/407	Eric Thav	Silicon Beach BBS	(305)474-6512
Southern California	Mike Hefferman	SOCAL Corner	(310)422-7942
California AC 310	Jim Walton	Illusions BBS	(310)804-3324
Detroit AC 313	Tom McEachern	Wonderland BBS	(313)274-3531
Detroit Area 313	Horst Mann	Tony's Corner	(313)754-1131
St. Louis AC 314	Beth Brooks	Fire Escape's Dir	(314)741-9505
ASP BBS Member List	Richard Holler	The RoadHouse BBS	(317)784-2147
Engineering Related BBS	Arthur Petrzalka	Computer Plumber	(319)337-6723
Rhode Island Area 401	Mike Labbe	Eagle's Nest	(401)732-5292
Alberta AC 403	Stephen Decarie	T-8000	(403)246-4487
Calgary Alberta AC 403	Jeremy Birkett	The Quantum BBS	(403)252-5119
Atlanta Area 404	Online Atlanta Society	OASIS	(404)627-2662
Oklahoma City AC 405	John Burton	The SandBox	(405)737-9540
Montana Area	Jay Michalik	Valley Light BBS	(406)273-6399
Searchlight BBS Systems	Chad Payne	Montana MediaNet	(406)549-6325
Orlando BBS List AC 407	Lenny Lacuy	Infinite Space Onlin	(407)856-0021
San Francisco Bay Area	Mark Shapiro	BABBA BBS	(408)946-8592
Baltimore BBS Area 410	David Fogle	Silver Streak BBS	(410)254-3400
Pittsburgh AC 412	Chas Stokes	Zuul's Catacombs	(412)264-9787
National BBS List	DP McIntire/Beth Spotts	Ameriboard	(412)349-6862
Milwaukee AC 414	Mark G.	The Castle	(414)327-5085
North America Nudist List	Patrick O'Brien	Natural Connection	(414)426-2110
Toledo Ohio Area 419/313	Ryck Zarick	Toledo's TBBS	(419)475-2241
Arkansas Area 501	Bob Underdown	The Blue & The Grey	(501)444-8420
Louisville KY South IN	Tim Arnold	Dance of Shiva BBS	(502)893-6360
Portland Oregon BBS	Lisa Gronke	DawGone Disgusted	(503)297-9145
New Orleans AC 504	Darin Celino	Southern Belle BBS	(504)455-9488
New Mexico AC 505	Dan Kiehl	MDC Computers BBS	(505)434-0258

BBSLIST TOPIC	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
Apogee/ID/Software Crtns List	Dan Linton	Software Creations	(508)368-7139
PCBoards on Internet	Ruben Melo	ponyXpress BBS	(508)587-7669
Worcester MA AC 508	Charles Grosvenor	Information Society	(508)832-7542
Corpus Christi	James Cordani	Treasure Island	(512)241-8358
Austin Area AC 512	John Foster	Camel's Back BBS	(512)243-0077
Selected BBS	Joseph Caplinger & Son	J&J's BBS	(513)236-1229
Free Shareware AC 516	Harold Stein	Long Island Exchange	(516)271-5303
516 AC, 800 numbers, Freenets	Wilton Virgo	Long Island BBS	(516)338-8595
Area Code 517 - Mid-Michigan	Rick Rosinski/SAMM	Wolverine BBS	(517)695-9952
518 AC	Dave Hitt	Electric Avenue	(518)899-3292
Phoenix AC 602	Sue Widemark	Cheese Whiz BBS	(602)279-0793
Cochise County Arizona	Kevin McCrory	The Commo Shack BBS	(602)452-0587
Arizona and Southwest U.S.	Michael	BBSouthWest	(602)820-7861
New Hampshire	Mike Maggi	Marios Birdhouse	(603)226-0467
Victoria/Vancouver AC 604	Mark Morley	Island Net	(604)477-5163
Kentucky AC 606	Jon Hagee	Kentucky Explorer	(606)271-1451
Wisconsin 608	Jim Wargula	JW-PC Dataflex.HST	(608)837-1923
New Jersey AC 609	Dave Schubert	The Casino BBS	(609)485-2380
Real Estate Boards	Ted Kraus	Dealmakers Online	(609)587-4651
New Jersey Area 201/609/908	Wayne R. Morton	Praedo BBS	(609)953-0769
Medical Issues BBS	Edward Del Grosso	Black Bag	(610)454-7396
Job Search and Inet hot list	Ward Christman	Online Opportunities	(610)873-7170
Minnesota Twin Cities AC 612	Barry Watson	Abiogenetic BBS	(612)774-8454
Apple II BBS	Mike Shecket	Way Out	(614)436-4846
Tennessee AC 615/901	unknown	SPDA Info Service	(615)952-5638
Business/Professional BBS	Dennis Hauser	Delight The Customer	(616)662-0393
Female Sysops	Brenda Donovan	The Pacific Rim	(619)278-7361
San Diego, CA AC 619	Tom Grigg	ComputerEdge	(619)573-1675
San Diego AC 619	Joe Nicholson	General Alarm	(619)669-0385
Apple II BBS with Internet con	Morgan Davis	pro-sol	(619)670-5379
Virginia AC 703/804	Eddie Gebhard	PC Power House	(703)348-1423
OS/2 BBS Systems	Pete Norloff	OS2/Shareware BBS	(703)385-4325
Genealogy Related BBS	Richard A. Pence	NGS-CIG	(703)528-2612
Charlotte, NC AC 704	Blaine Schmidt	Moobasi Optics, Ink	(704)541-9842
Indigenous People BBSs	Arthur McGee	BDPA BAC BBS	(707)552-3314
Black Run/Oriented BBS	Arthur "Rambo" McGee	BDPA BAC BBS	(707)552-3314
Chicago	Peter Anvin	Royal Swedish Viking	(708)491-9036
Gay & Lesbian BBS List	Billy Kennedy	Risquilly BBS	(708)495-6609
Airline Pilot/JUMPSEAT BBSs	Rex Chadwell	ChicAgo Hangar	(708)980-1613
Houston Area 713	David E. Wachenschwanz	Atomic Cafe BBS	(713)530-8875
Korean BBS	Wayne Jeong	Korea America Online	(714)449-9373
Area Code 715	Corey Koltz	YES It's another BBS	(715)345-7132
Rochester NY AC 716	Tracy Logan	Logan's Run	(716)328-2914
RIP BBS Listing	Mario Mueller	Antarctica BBS	(717)755-2440
717 AC BBS Listing	Adam Viener	Cyberia	(717)840-1444
Vermont BBS's	Russ Boyce	Computer Ser. of Ver	(802)334-7976
Ecology/Conservation BBS	Bob Chapman	EarthArt BBS	(803)552-4389
Central California AC 805	Larry Honore	His Board	(805)652-1478
Wildcat! BBS	Jim Harrier	Wildcat! HQ	(805)873-2400
Oahu Hawaii	Brent Davis	Land's End BBS	(808)499-2527
Detroit AC 810	Donald Quarles	Bad To The Bone	(810)749-3581
Technical Support BBS List	Gary Barr	Digicom BBS	(812)479-1310
Pinellas/Tampa Florida AC 813	Emery Mandel	Mercury Opus	(813)321-0734
Kansas City Area 816/913	Bob Zumbrunnen	PC-HELP BBS	(816)331-4703
Dallas Fort Worth	Mark Robbins	Second Sanctum	(817)467-1175
Denton, TX AC 817	Walter Bowen	Mezzanine BBS	(817)565-9165
Occult BBS	Phil Hansford	Mysteria	(818)353-8891
Commodore 64/128/Amiga BBS	John Rigali	Night Gallery	(818)448-8529
Texarkana BBS List	Rodney Payne	Internet Connection	(903)793-7173
Internet accessible BBS's	Richard S. Mark	Dragon Keep	(904)374-3500
Durham Region-Ontario Canada	Chuck Cirvec	Odyssey Systems	(905)579-9241
Alaska AC 907	Patti Johnson	Alaska Pirate Soc.	(907)248-9364
Travel Related BBSs	Robert Southwick	AK Information Cache	(907)373-3205
Kansas 913 Area Code BBS's	Chuck Baslock	On-Line Connection	(913)587-0241
Sacramento AC 916	Jackie Kuhwarth	24 Street Exchange	(916)448-2483
Darwin National US BBS List	Bob Breedlove	Bob's BBS	(916)929-7511
OS/2 Related BBS	Dave Fisher	LiveNet 1:170/110	(918)481-5715
Tulsa Oklahoma Area BBS List	Linda Hargraves	ACCESS AMERICA	(918)747-2542
Raleigh NC AC 919	Mike Stroud	Micro Message Svc.	(919)779-6674
National ISDN BBS list	Ken Morrison	Digital Velocity BBS	(919)992-3059
Republic of South Africa	Henk Wolsink	Catalyst BBS	27-41-51-3406
Switzerland BBS List	Cesar Keller	The Warehouse BBS	41-1-492-5157

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MicroSellar BBS (201)239-0001 Verona, New Jersey since 03/83. Sysop: Mark Rapp. Using PCBoard 15.21 with 20 lines on MS-DOS with 10000 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. No fee. PCBoard 15.x alpha site. NJ's preferred BBS for the pro 11 yrs running. Hispeed lines. Local #'s available for easy access. Best-quality latest files games info gold mine. Many mail networks including Internet. Trial access provided. Major credit cards.

Synergy Online (201)331-1797 Parsippany, New Jersey since 07/93. Sysop: Jim Boxmeyer. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 30 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 15000 MB storage. Cardinal at 38400 bps. No fee. 20,000+ recent shareware files. 4,000+ conferences. Internet, Usenet, RIME, U'NI-net, Inteltec and other networks online. Huge adult areas with over 10,000 GIFs. Daily weather, newspapers, magazines online. 30 Public lines available.

Central Core BBS (201)575-8991 Montville, New Jersey since 01/85. Sysop: Mike Cocke. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 3500 MB storage. ZyXel at 19200 bps. No fee. No fee for basic services, small fee for enhanced. A BBS for grownups of all ages. Free Internet trial access. Member ILink & BASNet echomail networks. Online national weather reports. Scrabble & trivia tournaments. Many technical interest files. No porn

Chat Chalet (201)791-8850 Saddle Brook, New Jersey since 04/91. Sysop: Ronnie Meier. Using MajorBBS 6.25 with 24 lines on MS-DOS with 877 MB storage. Practical at 14400 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. Where new friends meet. Send us our picture we will put it on Chat Chalet so you can download it. (free)

The Spirit of Play (201)854-2728 North Bergen, New Jersey since 03/95. Sysop: Frank Silvestro. Using MajorBBS 6.2 with 8 lines on MS-DOS with 2000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$.50 Hourly fee. Nothing but the spirit of play. Multi-player games including Doom, Doom II, Warpath, Spectre VR, Heretic and more. Full Internet access, ThetaNet, Worldlink, Chatlink and files. Come and play with the world.

BEACON STUDIOS BBS (201)863-5253 Union City, New Jersey since 01/93. Sysop: Conrad Scott. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 23 lines on MS-DOS with 15090 MB storage. Supra at 14400 bps. \$.50 Hourly fee. Free downloads for new users with 60 min. allowed daily. Over 70,000 files on 14 CD's. New Jersey's only WorldLink and ChatLink BBS linked every night. Internet e-mail, newsgroups, MajorNet, FidoNet and games.

Afterimage Information Matrix (201)887-2020 Florham Park, New Jersey since 03/94. Sysop: Anthony Stramaglia. Using MajorBBS 6.2 with 24 lines on MS-DOS with 5000 MB storage. Multitech at 28800 bps. \$12.50 Monthly fee. Full Internet: IRC, SLIP, Telnet, FTP, Archie, Gopher, shell accounts and more. Over 5GB of CD's and files. Multiuser games, 4-player DOOM DOOM2, local and Interlink chatting. Local, MajorNet, Infinet and Internet e-mail and newforums. Check us out.

Jezebel's Parlour BBS (201)927-2932 Flanders, New Jersey since 04/92. Sysop: Beverly Delisa. Using TBBS 2.2 with 12 lines on MS-DOS with 3720 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$50 Annual fee. Over 7 gigabytes of files, including adult graphics. New in-house scanned GIF files added each week. Online games and databases, user to user chat, conference areas, and adult matchmaking. The BBS with the feminine touch.

The Starship][BBS (201)935-1485 Rutherford, New Jersey since 07/80. Sysop: Philip J. Buonomo. Using TBBS 2.3 with 32 lines on MS-DOS with 10000 MB storage. V.32bis at 14400 bps. No fee. Operating for 15+ years, Starship is one of the oldest & most successful bbs systems ever. Free public access, adult, non-adult topics, chat, files & games, full internet access, it's the home of multi-BBS Global Chat Live. telnet:starship.com to access.

ABSOLUTE BLISS (202)234-0750 Washington, DC since 03/95. Sysop: Pussy Willow. Using MajorBBS 6.25 with 20 lines on MS-DOS with 4000 MB storage. AT&T Paradyne at 14400 bps. \$.60 Hourly fee. Washington DC's hot, irreverent, in your face, all-adult, online system. Not a good place for cardiac patients or southern Baptists! Come online and get rowdy with the thousands of users who know how to make Bliss happen. MC/VISA

Models On-Line (203)529-7761 Wethersfield, Connecticut since 11/94. Sysop: Joe Leone. Using WildCat 4.01 with 1 line on MS-DOS with 750 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. Online model photo-database. View hundreds of photos of Connecticut models and models from other parts of the country. Graphic terminal program required to view photos which can be downloaded free on the board. 30 minutes day, 24 hours day.

T-Shirts Online (205)880-6309 Huntsville, Alabama since 06/94. Sysop: Mike DeVaudreuil. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 1 line on MS-DOS with 540 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. Upload your favorite graphic file and we'll custom print it on a high quality t-shirt and mail it to you. High resolution, full color. No minimum quantity. If you can see it on a computer screen, we can print it on a t-shirt.

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CyberMaine (207)998-5710 Poland Spring, Maine since 01/95. Sysop: David Wight. Using Excalibur .82 with 2 lines on WINDOWS with 3500 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$25 Annual fee. 100% GUI, multitasking download while playing games, or reading messages. GIF thumbnails and previews. Online GUI games, online GUI mag, online art gallery. Internet e-mail and newsgroups. Awesome Graphics! Call today and experience CyberMaine.

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The Invention Factory BBS (212)274-8110 New York City, New York since 03/84. Sysop: Michael Sussell. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 48 lines on MS-DOS with 99999 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$15 Monthly fee. New York's best BBS. Free downloads for new users. More than 14 gig of shareware and freeware. Internet, Usenet, e-mail. Large adult files area. MC Visa Amex.

Midnight Driver Super Data Highway (212)750-3643 New York City, New York since 07/93. Sysop: Dave Lew. Using PCBoard 15.21 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 5000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$59.95 Annual fee. Free Internet mail and Usenet news. Over 1100 Usenet newsgroups and increasing every day. 2 CD-ROMs with tons of shareware. Lots of games including the latest Apogee wares. The best buy around. Come cruise by and see what all the excitement is about.

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Liberty BBS (213)732-2300 Los Angeles, California since 07/92. Sysop: David Salch. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 183 lines on MS-DOS with 15360 MB storage. ZyXEL at 19200 bps. \$25 Monthly fee. Local from 8 California area codes & Chicago. Nationwide ChatLink, WorldLink, MailLink, MajorNet, Internet & Usenet newsgroups. Use your modem to call 800-474-1818 for local & low cost nationwide SprintNet access information. Chat, games, news & more.

The Game Board (214)289-4345 Dallas, Texas since 05/94. Sysop: Alan Bradshaw. Using MajorBBS 6.02 with 10 lines on MS-DOS with 2600 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$2 Hourly fee. Interactive multi-player DOOM. Real time chat rooms and e-mail let you really get to know your enemies.

The Anarchist's BBS (214)289-8328 Dallas, Texas since 06/93. Sysop: Alan Bradshaw. Using MajorBBS 6.2 with 12 lines on MS-DOS with 2500 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. No fee. Categories include: bombs, computer hacking, drugs, fake ID, firearms, fraud and con games, investigative techniques, locksmithing, phone phreaking, political, revenge, sex, surveillance, and survival. Encrypted email. No ID verification.

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Homes OnLine, Inc (216)562-4006 Cleveland, Ohio since 06/94. Sysop: Paul Moon. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 528 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. Searchable database of real estate for sale with online color photos. Advertising is open to the public & agents. We do all the scanning & data input for you. Call 1-800-896-9002 (voice) for advertising info.

National Justice Centre BBS (216)740-2137 Youngstown, Ohio since 05/94. Sysop: Sheriff Ed Nemeth. Using MajorBBS 6.2 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 4500 MB storage. Supra at 28800 bps. No fee. Sheriffs, police, jails, prisons and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) find this BBS serves their policy and communications needs admirably. E-Mail, numerous forums and relevant file libraries strengthen law enforcement, jails & E-9-1-1.

Fantasy Land BBS (217)535-1005 Springfield, Illinois since 12/91. Sysop: Steve Horrihs, Jr. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 5 lines on MS-DOS with 10000 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$45 Annual fee. Simply the best. 5+ Megs added daily. Lots of doors. Thousands of message echos from more than 9 national mail networks w/ 3 adults only networks. 1/3 of files online are adult related. Fast online instant upgrades with VISA, MC. Download on first call.

ComChat Online Services (218)847-8340 Detroit Lakes, Minnesota since 11/93. Sysop: David W. Johnston. Using MajorBBS 6.2 with 60 lines on MS-DOS with 210 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. No fee. Internet, Galactic Empire, chat, files. Your link to the world. For information: email sysop@comchat.com; or sign up via modem. Local access available in over 600 cities offering monthly or hourly rates. VISA and MasterCard welcome.

Asia Club (301)203-0281 Washington, DC since 06/94. Sysop: Alex Clarke. Using MajorBBS 6.25 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 1000 MB storage. Supra at 14400 bps. \$.50 Hourly fee. Featuring an exclusive penpal filebase of beautiful Asian ladies desiring American men for correspondence, friendship or romance. GIF photos and bio-data. Call for instant access. Also: chat, games, adult files.

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Infinite Perspectives BBS (301)924-0398 Olney, Maryland since 08/88. Sysop: Carl Dickson. Using Remote Access v2.02 with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 4400 MB storage. PPI at 14400 bps. No fee. +100 Fidonet confs. Internet. 6 CD-ROMs, +25,000 files. No ratios. Desktop publishing, business, issue related, gen. interest & tech. topics. Free to public w/ special subscriber access. Eclectic tastes for those with an infinite sense of perspective.

Hafa Adai Exchange (301)994-9460 Great Mills, Maryland since 01/91. Sysop: Todd Cochran. Using WildCat 4.10M with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 20500 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$2 Monthly fee. 8 online CD-Roms 50+ doors planet connect equipped free Internet e-mail Usenet, Fido 1:2612/114. We will cater to your special interest group we are very Political. Call today kick your feet back and sit a spell.

The Digital Inn (303)296-1300 Denver, Colorado since 03/94. Sysop: Steve Adams. Using TBBS 2.3 with 10 lines on MS-DOS with 17000 MB storage. Intel at 14400 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. 18 CD ROM's online, Internet telnet, ftp, email, newsgroups, SLIP/PPP via T1 line. FidoNet, USA Today, Boardwatch, great message areas, games, Ultrachat, 150,000 files. Home of HotelNet online services for the hospitality industry. Free test drive.

DLS InfoNet (303)347-2921 Littleton, Colorado since 11/92. Sysop: Jerry McCarthy. Using WildCat 3.91 with 5 lines on MS-DOS with 8300 MB storage. Supra at 14400 bps. \$14.95 Annual fee. User friendly with the personal touch. Large file database, 110 file areas, well maintained. Extensive Windows area. No upload, download ratios. Internet e-mail & 120 newsgroups. RIP graphics. USA Today. Time bank door. Free trial period. Give us a call.

The File Bank, Inc (303)534-4646 Denver, Colorado since 01/93. Sysop: Bartee Westerberg. Using TBBS 2.3M[32] with 22 lines on MS-DOS with 24000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. ASP approved BBS & one of the finest collections of IBM compatible shareware. Many free download areas including extensive libraries of astronomy software & data files. Message areas, online games, chat. VISA, MC, AMEX, Discover Welcome. Voice: 534-4538.

Sound Doctrine BBS (303)680-7209 Aurora, Colorado since 01/87. Sysop: Tim Williams. Using TBBS 2.2 with 5 lines on MS-DOS with 80000 MB storage. Supra at 19200 bps. No fee. A clean bbs to connect with and free, Luke 16:13. 7+gig of files. Order free items while on-line. Free Internet & Suffering Christian alert area. Where nonbelievers can ask the questions their Christian friends wish they wouldn't. Hundreds of msg boards.

The Fetish Network BBS (305)370-7007 Ft. Lauderdale, Florida since 01/92. Sysop: Dianna Vesta. Using MajorBBS 6.02 with 70 lines on MS-DOS with 100 MB storage. PPI at 28800 bps. No fee. The Fetish Network offers magazines & videos from famous scene players. Excellent information & resource center for contacts and listings. Shopping, chat, games. Instant access. Full Internet access telnet:198.69.101.20 (FETISH.Wisenet.Com).

BPC PowerStation BBS (305)383-2341 Miami, Florida since 01/95. Sysop: Harvey Peters. Using PCBoard 15.21 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 1000 MB storage. Supra at 28800 bps. No fee. This system is Miami's newest and hottest BBS. It features multi-line chatting, latest online games, online shopping mall, many mail networks, latest & greatest shareware, and much more. No ratio's. Monthly online contests. We dare you to call. Call now.

Data Highway (305)797-9841 Ft. Laud, Florida since 04/94. Sysop: C. Goodale. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 11 lines on MS-DOS with 1250 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. Catering to the working, after work professionals, and non-professionals who want to network, research, or just relax with games or chat online. Internet access now online. Games, chat, Internet mail, telnet, ftp, finger, preprogrammed sites to visit.

WorldWorks Symposium (310)312-3370 Los Angeles, California since 11/94. Sysop: Richard Stutsman. Using NovaLink Pro 3.11 with 4 lines on MACINTOSH with 1500 MB storage. PPI at 28800 bps. \$30 Hourly fee. Telnet worldworks.com. An online symposium on how the world works. What really happened at Waco? Is the CIA a secret government? Are we being visited by extraterrestrial aliens? Is the world ruled by a conscious elite or by unconscious forces?

Hotel California BBS (310)407-1300 Santa Fe Springs, California since 02/94. Sysop: Richard. Using MajorBBS 6.21F with 64 lines on MS-DOS with 25000 MB storage. Zyxel at 28800 bps. \$15 Monthly fee. 47 online CD's with over 250,000 adult files. National Worldlink chatting system, online games, Internet access, matchmaking and much more. Unlimited access. Major credit cards accepted. Immediate access.

HOMES FOR SALE ON-LINE (310)471-6159 Beverly Hills, California since 06/94. Sysop: Multimedia Realty. Using WildCat 3.9 with 16 lines on MS-DOS with 2500 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. No fee. Review and advertise homes for sale in all Southern California communities at no charge. For sale by owner and by agent listings are acceptable. Career opportunity information. Voice: (310)649-6991 x101. (Lines and MB are forecast.)

Applan Way BBS Online Service (310)598-8460 Long Beach, California since 06/94. Sysop: Mark E. Johnson. Using TBBS 2.3 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 800 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$3 Monthly fee. TTY, ANSI, RIP. Internet email & 70 newsgroups. USA Today, information on local, state & federal government access. National TWINS mailing list, science, philosophy, religion, fine arts, community affairs. User friendly and reliable system.

HEALTH ONLINE (310)831-6775 San Pedro, California since 10/94. Sysop: Jerome Dorsey. Using TBBS 2.3 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 1540 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. No fee. Files and forums for healthcare professionals, caregivers, patients and anyone interested in health. Traditional and alternative health files plus games and more. A unique BBS. We're new and growing fast. New files and features added regularly. Internet.

Fantasia Online Information System (310)986-9705 Signal Hill, California since 02/91. Sysop: Brian Andrus. Using TBBS 2.3 with 5 lines on MS-DOS with 5000 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. Free Internet. Official Apogee release site. Latest shareware games and more. Online games, MUD, national linked chat. Tech support for the cyber-challenged. The carpool lane on the information superhighway.

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Digital Marine (312)930-7981 Chicago, Illinois since 03/95. Sysop: Ralph Harrington. Using MediaHost 1 with 2 lines on WINDOWS with 1000 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. No fee. BBS for the boating enthusiast. Chat, mail, new and used boat database w/color picture. We'll list your boat w/color picture free. We're located at 30 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 900 Chicago, IL 60606. Voice 312-930-7801.

Cyber Systems Network (313)697-1885 Belleville, Michigan since 09/94. Sysop: Paul Bevins. Using MajorBBS 6.25 with 8 lines on MS-DOS with 3000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. 3+ gig adult & shareware files. Adult online shopping, Chatlink (chat with up to 400 users), 4 player modem Doom 1&2, Fidonet, Adult-Links message bases. Full Internet connection due Feb 1st. All this and much, much, more. Call now.

Absolutely Adult BBS (317)297-7225 Indianapolis, Indiana since 02/95. Sysop: Gene Wyatt. Using TBBS 2.3 with 8 lines on MS-DOS with 10000 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$1.00 Hourly fee. Strictly adult oriented with multi-chat areas, adult GIFs, registration and ID verification required. Alias sign-on with strict confidentiality of all information.

Modern Nation-Indianapolis (317)322-5600 Indianapolis, Indiana since 10/94. Sysop: Tom Beyer. Using MajorBBS V6.25 with 12 lines on MS-DOS with 1000 MB storage. Supra at 14400 bps. \$0.25 Hourly fee. 12 lines 24 hours featuring WorldLink and MajorNet. Lots of files, lots of games, featuring Tradewars 2002. We're all part of The Modern Nation. Join today.

Multidata Adult BBS (318)746-3446 Bossier, Louisiana since 04/93. Sysop: Baby Dahl. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 2400 MB storage. Supra at 14400 bps. \$25.00 Annual fee. Multidata BBS caters to adults only. Mention this ad & get trial access. Three CDROMs devoted to sex-e VGA-SVGA GIFs that will melt your monitor. 700 erotic x-text files & hundreds of GL-DL Movies. Female sysops. LustNet conferences, online chat.

Atlanta Windows BBS (404)516-0048 Woodstock, Georgia since 01/91. Sysop: Warren Royal. Using PCBoard 15.21 with 14 lines on MS-DOS with 6000 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$40 Annual fee. Leading Windows-oriented BBS specializing in Windows and OS/2 shareware, public domain, and discussions. Full Internet access with 8 telnet-in nodes (telnet to bbs.atlwin.com to see the system). Over 10,000 newsgroups, ftp, www, gopher,archie, more.

The INDEX System TBBS (404)924-8472 Woodstock, Georgia since 04/83. Sysop: Rodney A. Aloia. Using TBBS 2.3 with 45 lines on MS-DOS with 5000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. No fee. This is a BBS for the serious modem'er. Internet, FidoNet, games, chat, files messages, on one of Atlanta's oldest and largest BBS's. Great fun. Local to Athens and LaGrange, GA. Operated by INDEX, the place to buy BBS S/W.

Substation BBS (407)477-5756 Boca Raton, Florida since 04/86. Sysop: Paul Blaccard. Using PCBoard 15.0 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 9000 MB storage. US Robotics at 16800 bps. \$30 Annual fee. Dependable quality BBS system. Featuring loads of DOS shareware files with one of the most exciting adult areas. Mentioned in the book More Joy of Cybersex for its innovative adult scans. Voice support (407)477-5755.

Nitelog BBS (408)655-1096 Monterey, California since 02/89. Sysop: Karl Van Lear. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 40 lines on MS-DOS with 16300 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$25 Quarterly fee. Adult files, Dos, Windows, MAC, Amiga files. Internet services: email, newsgroups, slip, csllp, ppp (ask sysop about the IP accounts). Hugh file selection with around 100 or more new files added daily. High quality weather maps, satellite TV listings.

HouseNet (410)745-2037 St. Michaels, Maryland since 05/91. Sysop: Gene Hamilton. Using WildCat 4.01 with 7 lines on MS-DOS with 2200 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$35 Annual fee. The only BBS with expert home repair and remodeling information on the Internet. Full Internet connection, Telnet: housenet.com. Meeting place in cyberspace for house nuts. Friendly sysops, newsletter, monthly tool giveaway, 30 min. free a day.

Cynosure Online (410)781-6271 Eldersburg, Maryland since 01/87. Sysop: Doug Granzow. Using WildCat 4.10 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 890 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$23 Annual fee. (\$15/yr for sysops & students) Internet email & Usenet since 1991. 14 day free trial available on first call. No adult files. Easy to use, monthly contests, instant validation, friendly sysop. Something for everyone, but emphasis on music, entertainment.

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the spa! (413)536-4365 Springfield, Massachusetts since 02/89. Sysop: Matthew de Jongh. Using TBBS 2.3 with 32 lines on MS-DOS with 25000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$45 Annual fee. Voted #15 in 1994 Boardwatch Contest. Largest system in Western Mass. Over 5,000 active users. Very active chat and multiuser games. 30 CD-ROMs online. Full Internet access & slip. Local community information. Local newspaper and ABC-TV online.

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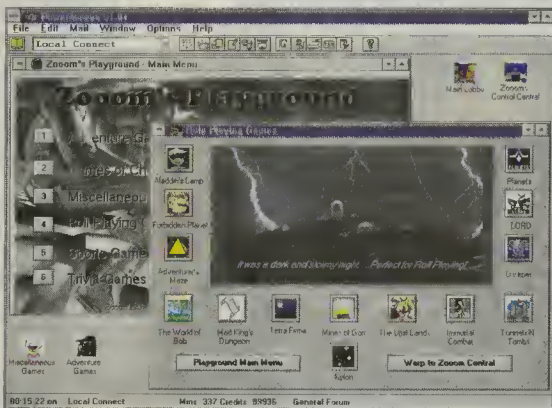
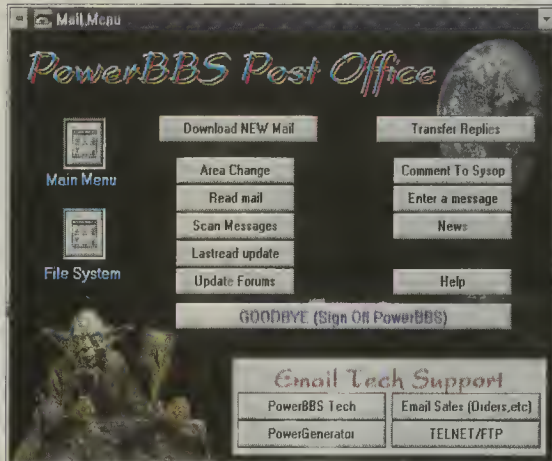
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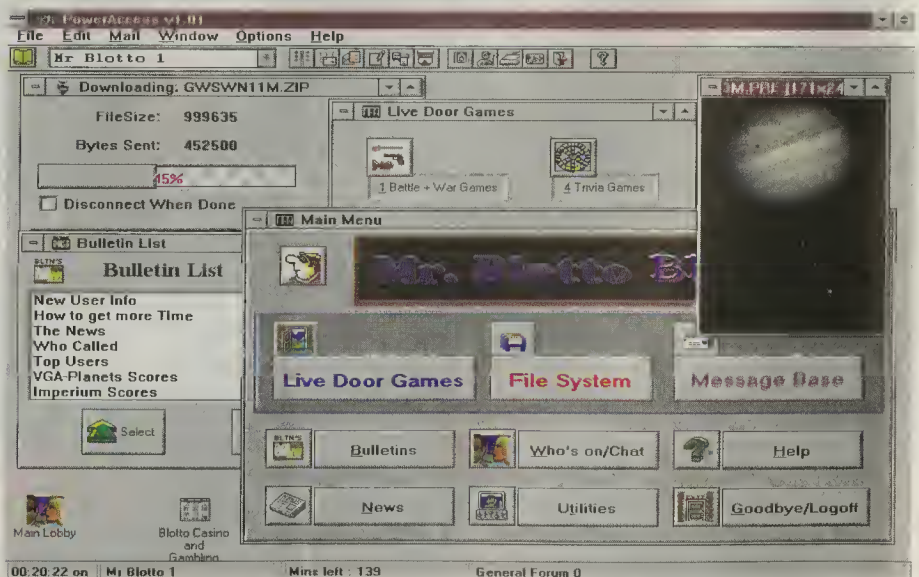
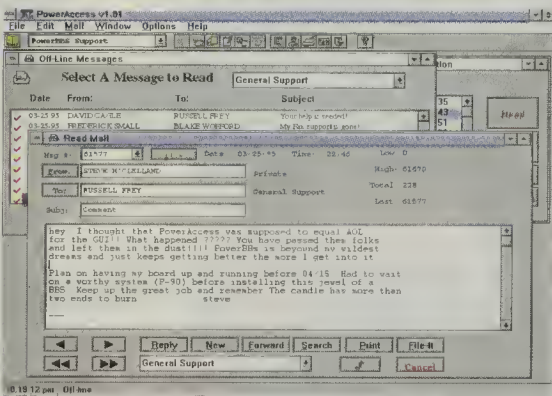
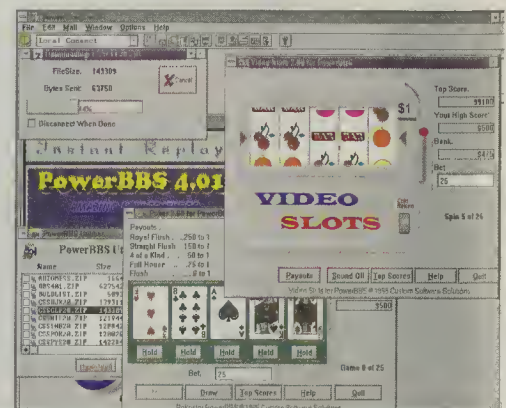
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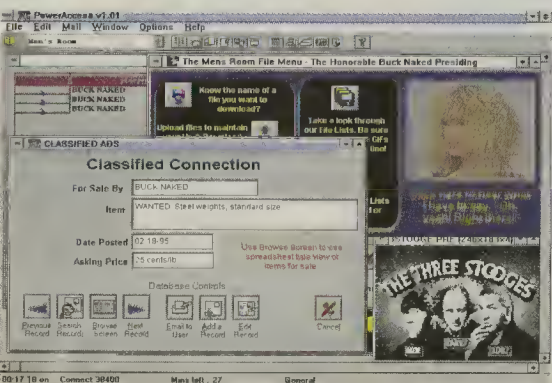
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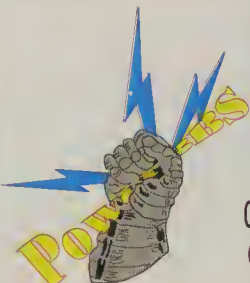
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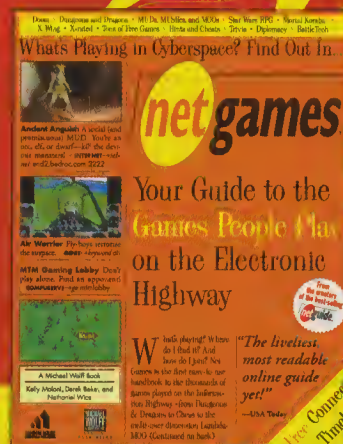
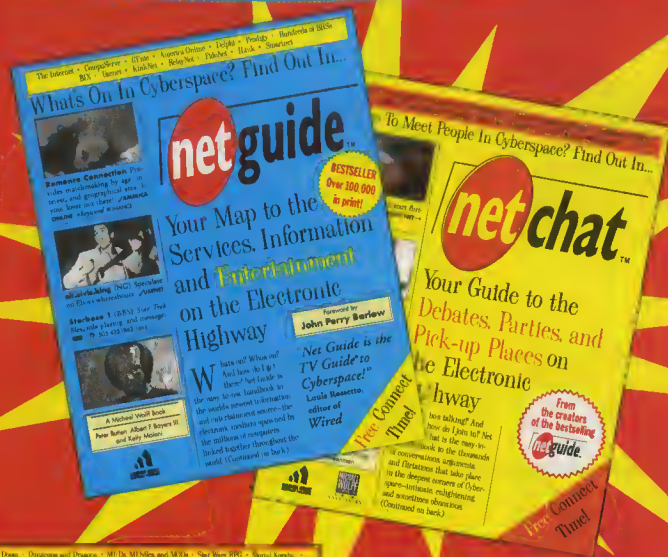
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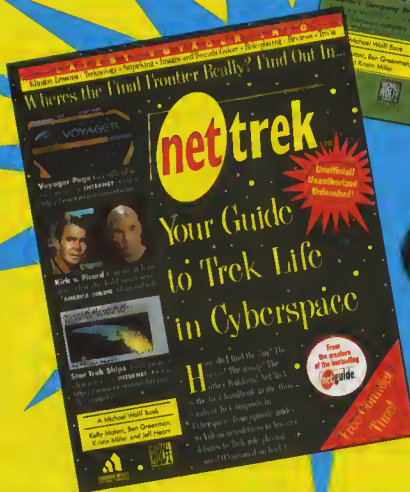
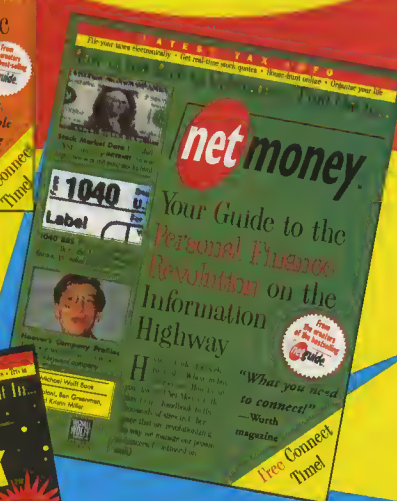
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DVORAK ONLINE by John C. Dvorak

MICROSOFT IN THE NEWS AGAIN, AND AGAIN

In addition to his weekly syndicated radio call-in show, "Software/Hard-talk," syndicated newspaper columns, magazine writing for *MacUser*, *PC Computing*, *DEC Professional*, *Information Technology*, and his featured "Inside Track" column in *PC Magazine*, Dvorak is the author of several best-selling books, including *Dvorak's Inside Track to DOS & PC Performance*, *Dvorak's Guide to PC Telecommunications*, and *Dvorak's Inside Track to the Mac*.

Was I surprised when I turned on the TV set to see Bill Gates sitting up there on stage with the Katzenberg, Spielberg, Geffen coalition. It was a day or two after Paul Allen sunk \$500 million into Dreamworks Studios in exchange for 18 percent of the action. This time it was Gates who was putting money in and apparently doing some sort of strategic partnering with these guys. Microsoft was going to become the multimedia arm of Dreamworks. Vaporware at its finest hour. These guys haven't done jack-dookey and I wonder if they ever will. Why bother to actually work if you can keep getting donations.

So up on stage, Spielberg is wearing a hat with the goofball BOB logo emblazoned on front. BOB as in Microsoft BOB, that wacky operating system front end for dummies and neophytes. He's giddy. He says they are partnering with Microsoft, because "Microsoft is the best company!" Best company? For what? For multimedia? What is he talking about? What about Lucas Software? Anyway Spielberg looks tremendously dorky with the hat and scraggle-ass beard, which looks like it hasn't been trimmed since the last cut of Spindlers List. I'm thinking, sheesh that babe whatshername, who he's married to, is going to dump him no matter how much money he has if he keeps this up. I'm thinking this is a carnival, a disaster waiting to happen. These jokers aren't executives, they're creative types. Dingbats from the looks of it. Except for Geffen, maybe, but who wants him running things? But no matter it's the Dream Team. The stage nearly collapsed from an ego overload.

Meanwhile, I know that the rest of the industry, already freaked by everything Microsoft does, is panicked by this turn of events. Oh my, oh my, Microsoft is now going to dominate multimedia. I personally doubt there would even be a multimedia category if it wasn't for Microsoft. It was Microsoft that started it all with CD-ROM conferences financed by Microsoft long before anyone knew what a CD-ROM was. You'd think with that kind of edge they ALREADY dominate multimedia. The fact is this alliance, like many projects that look good on paper, will go nowhere fast. I'm reminded of Spielbergs TV efforts such as Young Indiana Jones, and that other series he had that went down the tubes because it was over produced. Amazing Tales?

STILL EVERYONE WILL BE IN A TIZZY

It's not much different than the great fear and trembling caused by Microsoft Network, the online ser-

vice destined to take its place in history alongside E-World. I've expounded elsewhere exactly why I think Network will not amount to much if for no other reason than nobody trusts Microsoft to give them uncensored information, so I'll not belabor the point. But I have to give yet another example about how Microsoft is clueless about the online world. It was a brain-dead interview with Microsoft's top egghead, Nathan Myhrvold, which appeared in *Computer Reseller News*. Nathan, seems clueless about Network — and I wonder if he has anything whatsoever to do with the project. It sure didn't seem so from this interview, but it did indicate a strange level of naive goofiness that seems to be surfacing at the company. Just read a couple of these quotes from the interview:

Nathan: "We think that if we can make an environment in which information providers have the right kind of tools to make really, really hot stuff and gear it specifically for online, and if there's a financial proposition that says they can make a lot of money so that most of the revenue that comes in goes to them and not the service, and if we've increased the ease of use, those factors will combine to make an environment in which lots of information will be offered."

Huh? Does this sound like a bureaucrat saying nothing or is it just my imagination? Sounds like a chicken and egg dilemma. I also think it breaks some sort of record for sentence length.

It gets worse. When Nathan is asked about the billing, and who will be doing it, he says, "The actual bills are going to get printed by some company that is great at doing that. It turns out there are companies that are great at licking a million envelopes for us and sending them out."

What kind of blather is this? Companies that are GREAT at "licking" a million envelopes? Sheesh, Nathan, get out more! He says "it turns out" as if Microsoft was suddenly surprised that there exists fulfillment houses or companies that sell outsourcing for such things. It makes you wonder. It's as if they are saying something like this: "It turns out that you can actually buy milk at what they call a grocery store. We at Microsoft are going to the great grocery store to buy our milk which it turns out is available at many grocery stores, not just great ones." And these guys are worth millions!

I laugh when I see Compuserve, America Online and Prodigy scramble in a panic because Microsoft Network is coming. Myhrvold talks about how MS-

Network is going to work using a slew of networked PC's (undoubtedly running NT server) and this will give them some sort of cost advantage over the big boys who use various mini and mainframe configurations. Gee, networked PC's. Maybe we should tell the BBS community about this breakthrough. According to Myhrvold, "We're the first online service to use PC's at the back end." I hope you all heard that assertion correctly. More proof that the company is clueless. Of course, an online service such as one of the mega-

BBS's doesn't count I guess. After all, again according to Myhrvold, the company has to deal with "...millions of people phoning you simultaneously." Millions? Simultaneously? Call the National Guard.

I could go on ridiculing poor Nathan, but why bother. Let the Microsofties find out for themselves what's what.

The discovery may come hard as few critics aren't doing much more than praising MS-Network sight unseen. So

Microsoft will be unprepared for disappointment. And, of course, I don't count, since I'm known as an industry wet-blanket who criticizes everything. And since I use WARP I'm an obvious Microsoft basher. On the other hand, it's tempting to let them boost MS-Network just to frighten the competition. It's a sick kind of fun to watch those who compete with Microsoft shake and quake from nervous fear and trepidation. Boo! ♦

DVORAK'S RECIPE NOOK

Gazpacho — The Underrated Cold Soup

One unpopular aspect of cookery seems to be the cold soups so popular in hot Mediterranean climates. There is nothing like a cold Gazpacho on a hot day. A perfect accompaniment to a chilled Chardonnay or Riesling. Gazpacho — cold tomato soup — is one of the few cold soups that appear on restaurant menus, but how many out there have actually made this dish? Let's try it.

I looked through the references to find a somewhat definitive and classic version of this soup to discover the variations so broad that Gazpacho is more of a category of soups than a definitive recipe.

Let me give you a good Gazpacho recipe that turned up in an odd celebrity cookbook done in the 1960's, *Tycoons in the Kitchen*, edited and published by Michael Dorn of Dorn Press. This recipe was contributed by Joseph E. Cullman III, then Chairman of Philip Morris. It's not unusual, you should note, for high level CEO-types to take great interest in gourmet cooking as cooking is a very good way to relax once you know how to cook properly. I consider it a form of meditation. Here's the recipe, which serves four to six people.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon high quality condiment style olive oil
- 1 cucumber
- 2 onions, 2 garlic cloves, 5 tomatoes, 2 green peppers
- 1 stalk celery
- 2 teaspoons of Spanish paprika's
- 1/4 cup tarragon wine vinegar
- 1 1/2 cups of tomato juice
- 1 cup of chicken broth
- 1/4 tsp. basil
- 1/4 tsp. tarragon

1. Peel the cucumber. Run the prongs of a fork down its sides to create a scalloped effect, slice thinly, sprinkle with salt and vinegar and chill.

2. Chop finely all the rest of the vegetables and mix them in a large bowl with the rest of the ingredients. The tomatoes

should be peeled and cored before chopping. This recipe does not require blending.

3. Chill in the refrigerator for at least three hours. It can be kept for days in fact.

4. Garnish with the cucumbers and serve.

Now that's a BASIC Gazpacho that you can add special flourishes, too. Dean Fearing at the famed Mansion at Turtle Creek in Dallas uses yellow tomatoes and adds cilantro, which has become a vogue herb amongst foodies. I know too many people who cannot stand the taste of cilantro to use this variation. He also added some hot chills, which you might consider if you're in the mood for some spice. While the cilantro isn't for everybody, I do believe a good amount of chopped Italian parsley would add to this recipe. Also try using the leaves from finely chopped celery to add a unique variation of the celery taste. I'm amazed at how most stores nowadays are chopping off the tops of celery and only selling the stalks when the leaves are terrific in salads, potato salad, soups and as garnishes. Complain to your grocer if he does this.

Here are some other variations of this dish worth considering. From *Sunset Magazine* October 1993, a recipe called Sunni's Gazpacho with shrimp used Clamato instead of tomato juice and added cooked shrimp and avocado. Also little chunks of cream cheese were used as garnish.

Sunset Magazine is a great source for recipe collectors and there is a Gazpacho almost month in this publication. Here's another from July 1993 called Chunky Summer Gazpacho. Much like the one I outlined except you top it with some unflavored yogurt and garnish with sliced avocado. A similar recipe garnishes the Gazpacho with cooked sliced artichoke hearts.

With summer coming up there is no reason not to develop a good Gazpacho yourself and serve it as a light summer soup for lunch. ♦



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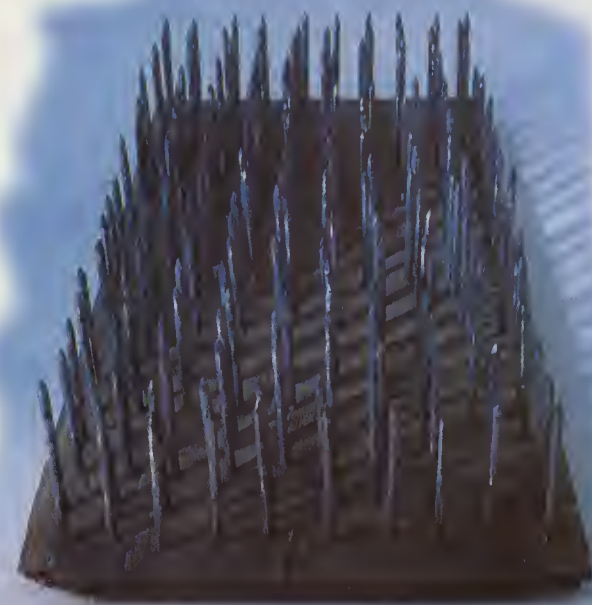


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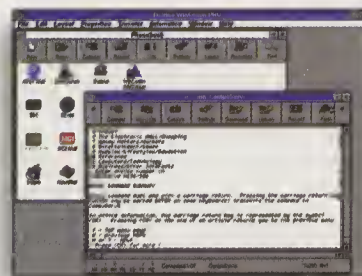
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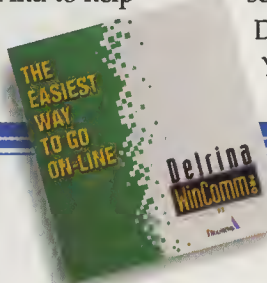
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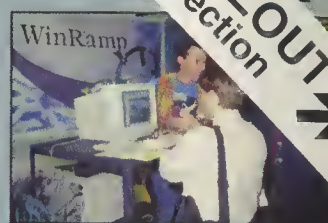
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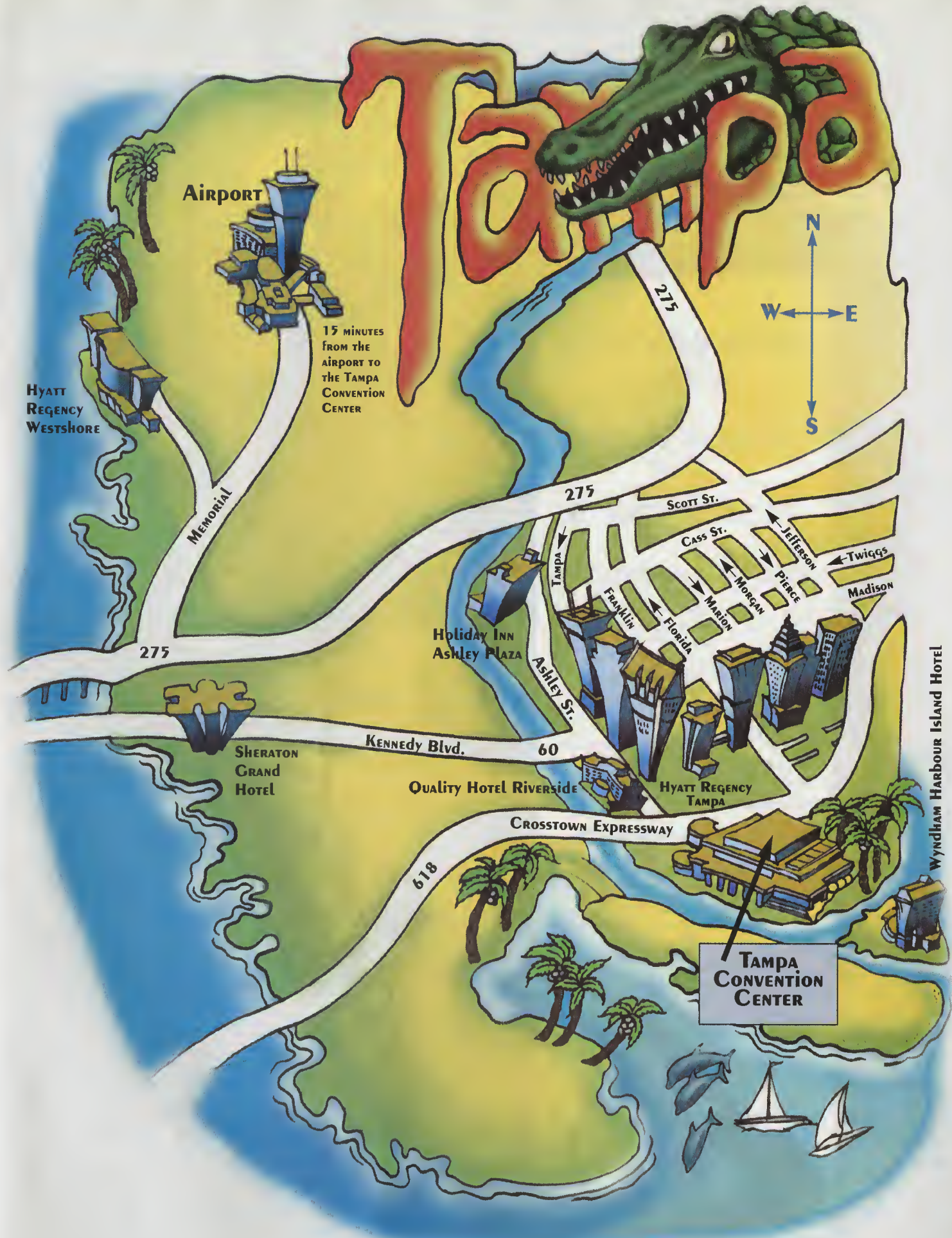
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TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Delta Air Lines and USAir are the official airlines for the 1995 ONE BBSCON. Both offer special meeting discounts for air travel in and out of Tampa and Orlando August 13-23, 1995.

To take advantage of Delta's special fares, call 1-800-241-6760 from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm Eastern Time, daily. Refer to File Number F1294. Some restrictions may apply.

To obtain USAir's discount, call USAir's Meeting and Convention Reservation Office at 1-800-334-8644 from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm Eastern Time. Refer to Gold File Number 65500054. Some restrictions may apply. ♦



ONE BBSCON



A Special Invitation

The Online World has never faced so much change and technological evolution in so short time as in 1995. At the same time it's becoming centrally important in ways it never used to be. The days when you could be successful with casual knowledge are over. But if you spend a month learning about it you're already a month behind. There's only ONE place where all elements of online success come together - ONE BBSCON. The most varied exhibits - literally hundreds of educational sessions - covering every topic - in three days in August you will learn more from those who do than you can learn in a year any other way.

The Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention (ONE BBSCON) has emerged over the past four years as one of the brightest stars in the trade show universe - and for the very best of reasons. It has been superbly effective in providing attendees with the two things they most want in an educational gathering - hard, useable information; and an opportunity to network with the industry players in one of the most exciting arenas of today's technology. Last year, nearly 4,000 BBS operators gathered in Atlanta Georgia for ONE BBSCON 1994. This year, we expect ONE BBSCON 1995 to continue the phenomenal growth in Tampa, Florida.

Last year, ONE BBSCON presented some 173 in-depth educational sessions and seminars in three days - a presentation schedule so hectic no other trade show organization even attempts it. This effort to encapsulate the hundreds of areas of online activity that comprise the current explosion in PC communications resulted in as many as fifteen seminars occurring at any one time covering everything from satellite delivery to ISDN, building communities online to Internet connectivity issues, from attracting callers to making problem callers go away, from copyright issues and pornography to telecom in education - and all of it on a how-to, what-to, when-to, and why-to level - no happy talk or visionary thinktank bab-

blegobble. This year, the community promises to deliver exceptional low-cost solutions to world-wide Internet connectivity for PC-based bulletin boards - a connectivity solution at an absurdly low price. And nearly 350 product vendors are hoping to show their newest connectivity product rollouts designed specifically to make a splash at this one show. If you want to know how to do it online, you'll find it somewhere in the halls of ONE BBSCON.

And we're exceptionally proud of the type of vendor that participates in ONE BBSCON. While many tradeshowes are dominated by large companies with public relations teams that will be happy to "mail you" some information, ONE BBSCON attracts many smaller, newer companies with innovative and in some cases revolutionary products with the people who designed it in the booth and excited to talk about and demonstrate their inventions. A good impression made on the 7000 BBS and online service operators attending a ONE BBSCON is carried within hours or days to literally millions of callers to those services.

The second benefit of ONE BBSCON is, of course, the networking. The deal making in the halls and hospitality suites of ONE BBSCON reaches such a fevered frenzy of entrepreneurial energy - 24 hours per day from Wednesday to Sunday, that just being in the room with it will leave you weak in the knees - literally. From behemoths like Rockwell International, IBM, AT&T, Hayes Microcomputer Products, and MCI, to single line BBS operators, tiny software development companies, and third-grade school teachers, all claim to have "discovered" this one convention as the pre-eminent networking opportunity of the year.

Aside from who's selling what to whom, you'll see educators swapping notes with teen-age software developers, federal government BBS administrators picking up tips from home-based BBS entrepreneurs, Internet service

providers waving their arms at BBS software vendors, IRS managers huddled with CompuServe forum administrators, shareware software developers talking with credit card merchant account representatives, and attendees from some 30 countries all seeking to find that one piece of the puzzle they need to take back home with them to make their online service successful. Judging from the number of new product and industry announcements directly traceable to last year's convention, it is utterly clear that they are finding it. And each and every attendee takes home just a bit more than they brought with them.

But aside from these two concrete benefits, ONE BBSCON has a third element you must experience at least once to comprehend. It is a form of energy - an energy of enthusiasm borne of being a key part in the birth of an exciting new industry that has the potential to change the world. While the rest of the world buzzes about in mixed confusion over the "coming National Data SuperHighway," the "National Information Infrastructure," and the joys of "CyberSpace," ONE BBSCON attendees represent the online construction workers who are actually building it today where it matters - at the precise point where an individual computer user connects to the online world. It is exactly where the "rubber meets the road" on this otherwise ethereal data highway, and these are the people who have to ANSWER questions NOW from callers who've made that first connection and demand to know.

There will likely be several hundred hastily cobbled-together seminars, conventions, and events held this year

on the Internet, the National Data SuperHighway, bulletin boards, and variations on the theme. It's a hot topic and everyone's getting onboard. Attend all of them if you've the time. We're confident that if you do, ONE BBSCON this August will STILL be your FIRST real point of contact with the techniques, information, technology, and people you'll need to prosper, profit, and thrive on this future byway of commerce.

But if you've time for only ONE trade show this year, find someone who has already successfully realized their dream of building that successful BBS at home and escaped the corporate job track forever - or the hero in your own company (or your competition's) that turned the world around with an inexpensive PC in a closet that now outproduces some company departments. Find that BBS operator that already offers global Internet e-mail, a World Wide Web server and ftp connections, and ask them directly. Chances are they DID attend ONE BBSCON last year and they won't stutter with the answer - "There's only one - ONE BBSCON."

This year's ONE BBSCON in Tampa, Florida promises to be the biggest and the most exciting international gathering of BBS operators in history. We invite you to join us. ♦



Philip L. Becker

PHILIP L. BECKER, SECRETARY/TREASURER
ONE, INC.



Jack Rickard

JACK RICKARD, PRESIDENT
ONE, INC.



HOTEL INFORMATION

	Room Charges per night Single or double occupancy	Free Airport Shuttle Service	Mileage from Airport to Hotel/Riding Time	Mileage from Hotel to Convention Center/Riding Time	Average Cost of Cab Ride (Airport to Hotel)	Average Cost of Cab Ride (Hotel to Convention Center)	Athletic Facility	Pool
HYATT REGENCY TAMPA (Host) Two Tampa City Center Tampa, FL 33602	\$99	Yes	8 miles 15-20 minutes	1 mile 5 minutes	\$13 to \$15	\$4	Yes	Outdoor
WYNDHAM HARBOUR ISLAND HOTEL 725 S. Harbour Island Blvd. Tampa, FL 33602	\$109	Yes	10 miles 15 minutes	walking distance	\$15 to \$20	Walking Distance	Across the Street, Private Club, guests may use it for \$10	Outdoor
HYATT REGENCY WEST SHORE 6200 Courtney Campbell Causeway Tampa, FL 33607	\$95	Yes	approximately 2 miles 5 minutes	approximately 9 miles 15 minutes	\$4	\$15	Yes	Outdoor
SHERATON GRAND HOTEL 4860 W. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33609	\$92	Yes	approximately 3.5 miles 10 minutes	approximately 4 miles 10 minutes	\$6	\$7	Yes	Outdoor
HOLIDAY INN ASHLEY PLAZA Convention Center 111 W. Fortune St. Tampa, FL 33602	\$80	Yes	approximately 8 miles 10 minutes	approximately 1/2 mile 2 minutes	\$15	\$5	Yes	Outdoor
QUALITY HOTEL RIVERSIDE 200 N. Ashley Dr. Tampa, FL 33602	\$59	Yes	approximately 6 miles 10 minutes	approximately 4 blocks walking distance	\$12	\$5	Yes	Outdoor

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

To Hyatt Regency Tampa from Tampa Airport (by car):

Follow I-275 North, exit #25 (Tampa/Ashley) stay left as the road forks and you will be on Tampa Street. Follow eight (8) lights and the Hyatt Regency Tampa will be on the left at Tampa and Jackson.

To Holiday Inn Ashley Plaza (by car):

Take 60 East to I-275 North downtown. Continue North to exit 25 (Ashley, Tampa, Scott St., Convention) this is the last exit before I-4. Stay to your right, this will put you on West Fortune Street. The Hotel is on this street directly behind the Times Building and the Performing Arts Center.

To Hyatt Regency Westshore (by car):

Take 60 West to the second (2nd) traffic light. This will be Frontage Road. Go left and the Hotel will be on this Street.

To Wyndham Harbour Island Hotel (by car):

I-275 North (downtown) to exit 25 (Ashley/Tampa Streets) Tampa Street South this goes into a dead end at the Convention Center. Follow the signs to Harbour Island. Harbour Island is on Franklin Street and the Hotel is about three (3) blocks up the road.

To Sheraton Grand Tampa Westshore (by car):

Follow signs to Highway 60 East/Kennedy Boulevard (approx. 3 miles) at the first traffic light turn left onto Kennedy Blvd. and travel 3 traffic lights. The Sheraton Grand is located on the right, 11 story black glass and brown marble building.

To Quality Riverside Hotel (by car):

From airport take I-275 North to the Ashley exit. Stay straight on Ashley. The hotel is approximately 2 miles on the right hand side. You will pass eight (8) traffic lights.

FACILITIES PARKING INFORMATION

Hyatt Regency Tampa

- \$7/Day to Valet (guests and non-guests)
- \$4/ Day to self park (guests and non-guests)
- 24 Hour Valet Service

Holiday Inn Ashley Plaza

- Complimentary parking (guests and non-guests) • No Valet Service

Hyatt Regency West Shore

- \$7/Day to Valet (guests and non-guests)
- Self park is complimentary (guests and non-guests)
- 24 Hour Valet Service

Wyndham Harbour Island

- \$6/Day for guests and non-guests • 24 Hour Valet Service

Sheraton Grand

- \$6/Day to Valet (guests and non-guests)
- Self park is complimentary (guests and non-guests)
- 24 Hour Valet Service

Quality Riverside

- \$5/Day (guests and non-guests) • No Valet Service

Tampa Convention Center

- \$1/Per Hour \$6 Maximum on Weekdays and \$3 Maximum on Weekends
- Entrance on Tampa Street

ONE BBSCON 1995

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE AGENDA

TAMPA CONVENTION CENTER

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: HYATT REGENCY TAMPA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1995

8:00am - 6:00pm	Exhibitor Registration Open
11:00am - 7:00pm	Attendee Registration Open
7:30pm - 10:30pm	Welcome Reception on the patio at the TAMPA CONVENTION CENTER

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1995

7:00am - 6:00pm	Exhibitor Registration Open
7:00am - 6:00pm	Attendee Registration Open
9:00am - 11:30am	Welcome, opening Session
12:00nn - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 4:30pm	Seminars
1:30pm - 7:00pm	Exhibits Open
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1995

7:00am - 6:00pm	Exhibitor Registration Open
7:00am - 6:00pm	Attendee Registration Open
9:00am - 6:00pm	Seminars
9:00am - 6:00pm	Exhibits Open
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break
12:00nn - 1:30pm	Lunch
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break
8:00pm - 1:00am	Vendor Hospitality Suites (Location to be announced)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1995

7:00am - 6:00pm	Exhibitor Registration Open
7:00am - 6:00pm	Attendee Registration Open
9:00am - 6:00pm	Seminars
9:00am - 6:00pm	Exhibits Open
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break
12:00nn - 1:30pm	Lunch
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Coffee Break
7:00pm - 11:00pm	Dvorak Hayes Awards Banquet (Optional Dinner Event)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1995

8:00am - 12:00nn	Exhibitor Registration Open
8:00am - 12:00nn	Attendee Registration Open
9:00am - 12:00nn	Seminars (Conference Adjourned)
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break



REGISTRATION AND WELCOME

Registration and a welcoming reception for the ONE BBSCON '95 starts Wednesday, August 16th. The convention officially opens with a general session at 9:00 am, Thursday, August 17th. This session will include addresses by each of the Executive Advisory Board members, and a keynote address.

ONE BBSCON SEMINARS

The Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention has two primary features of interest to attendees. A 100,000 square foot vendor exhibit trade show area allows software, hardware, and networking vendors to show off the very latest in PC communications technology. The main focus of the ONE BBSCON is the educational aspect. Last year's show featured some 200 notable speakers participating in over 170 educational seminars. At any one time, as many as fifteen sessions were going on simultaneously - an educational track of sessions that would ordinarily comprise any normal three day convention occurs EVERY HOUR at ONE BBSCON.

This year's event promises an even greater cornucopia of seminars and educational sessions, with more hands-on workshops and more panel discussions than ever before. The Tampa Convention Center offers us some 18 assembly rooms, equipped with the most modern audio/visual equipment available.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY - HOW TO RUN A BBS FOR PROFIT

Traditionally, one of the popular tracks at ONE BBSCON, this series of seminars focuses on the topic of entrepreneurial activities in the online world. The current expansion of the Internet to commercial operations

♦ "We participate in tradeshows like ONE BBSCON to build awareness of our leadership position in the modem industry. Our presence and ad in the ONE BBSCON show guide clearly increased our visibility to attendees last year, so we'll be back this year!"

Julie Seymour
Rockwell International

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

In order to ensure ONE BBSCON represents the widest possible range of online activity and does so in a manner useful and valuable for attendees, an Executive Advisory Board structure provides input and suggestions on the educational and presentation aspects of ONE BBSCON. This year, the ONE BBSCON Executive Advisory Board met for three days at the Lodge at Cordillera in Colorado January 10-12 to lay the groundwork for ONE BBSCON 1995. Executive Advisory Board members for the 1995 ONE BBSCON include:

John C. Dvorak

PC Magazine/PC Computing

Dennis C. Hayes

Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.

Kevin Behrens

Aquila BBS

Bob Metcalfe

Infoworld

Stan Hirschman

Software Etc.

Dave P. McClure

Association of Online Professionals

Dave Hughes Sr.

Old Colorado City Communications

Jim Harrer

Mustang Software, Inc.

Scott Brinker

Galacticomm, Inc.

Michael Greenbaum

Bell Atlantic

Steve Larsen

Prodigy Services Company

Bill Washburn

MecklerWeb

promise to make this track even more popular as many attendees express a strong interest in leaving the corporate job mill to start their own entrepreneurial business from home using online technologies. Sessions cover some of the basic business functions of a successful online enterprise including how to attract callers, build a sense of community, what callers do online, how to price services and more. It also includes some of the common problems of obtaining credit card merchant status to take MC and Visa payments, direct mail promotion, business plans, funding and more. Sessions are given by people who have operated financially successful bulletin boards as their sole means of income. Many of the most popular of these feature panel discussions where operators of such bulletin boards as EXEC-PC, Aquila BBS, PC-Ohio, Databank, Bruce's Bar & Grill, Invention Factory, Executive Network, and others answer audience questions regarding how they built their single line BBS into a thriving home-based business grossing as much as \$1 million per year.



SURVEY OF BBS SOFTWARE PLATFORMS

The most common question asked by those considering putting BBS technology to work for their business, their school, their governmental department, or for their own entrepreneurial activity is "Which BBS software should I use?" Unfortunately, there is no short answer. The range of applications that employ BBS technology, and the range of features provided in different BBS software packages, makes the decision as to "which BBS software" not only one of the most crucial decisions you'll make on the road to a successful implementation, but also the most difficult. ONE BBSCON uniquely provides a forum for researching and comparing BBS packages and technologies head-to-head and side-by-side, allowing you to talk directly with the authors and developers of virtually ALL the popular BBS software packages used today. In this track, each BBS software developer provides an introductory session providing an overview of features and applications for which their package is best suited. There isn't another opportunity anywhere on the planet to do this type of comparison. As a result, this track has been very popular with the corporate/government attendees tasked with "picking the right one."

♦ "Both of the ONE BBSCON shows to date have provided valuable insights into what is clearly an emerging industry. Now that the Information Super Highway is a well established media phenomenon, I expect that those in the know will find ONE BBSCON as valuable to participate in the new revolution as COMDEX has been to those who participated in the PC revolution."

David Whittle
IBM



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SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

For any special requirements, please call the ONE, Inc., office at (303) 693-5253.

ON-SITE SECURITY

The 1995 ONE BBSCON will again have security. Please note that the security personnel have been instructed to be thorough, and therefore all policies established by ONE, Inc., and ONE BBSCON will be strictly enforced by the contracted security company.

tion is strongly recommended. Registrations will be processed based on the date that the completed registration form and **full payment** is received. There is a **discount** of up to **\$150** for early registration as follows:

On or before May 1	\$175 per person
May 2 - August 1	\$250 per person
After August 1	\$325 per person

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refunds, less \$50 processing fee, will be issued to WRITER requests received by July 21, 1995. Absolutely no refunds after July 21, 1995. No refunds for "no-shows" to the conference.

BUSINESS SERVICES

For your convenience, a business center is located in The Tampa Convention Center offering photocopies, transparencies, fax transmissions, word processing, coat/baggage check, and package shipping. The hours of operation during ONE BBSCON are:

Wednesday, August 16	9:00am - 5:00pm
Thursday, August 17	7:30am - 6:30pm
Friday, August 18	7:30am - 6:30pm
Saturday, August 19	7:30am - 6:30pm
Sunday, August 20	8:00am - 12:00nn

LOCATION INFORMATION

The Tampa area is a vibrant community full of diversity and culture. Attractions include, Busch Gardens, The Museum of African American Art and Old Hyde Park Village. Tampa features an interstate system that virtually connects all of Florida, making the wonderful amusement parks of Orlando extremely convenient and accessible.

The Tampa Convention Center is located in downtown Tampa overlooking beautiful Tampa Bay.



ONE BBSCON 1994 featured over 150 vendors with more expected for 1995.

To find out how your company can become an active player at this year's ONE BBSCON, call (303)693-5253.

HOSPITALITY SUITES

Vendor hospitality suites are traditionally a big part of ONE BBSCON evening activities and a key opportunity for sysops to meet with vendors in an informal setting. Vendors sponsor hospitality suites throughout the event.

This has been a very popular feature at past ONE BBSCONs and provides an excellent opportunity to view additional product demonstrations and visit with vendors and other attendees.



DVORAK AWARDS BANQUET

Another of the more popular features of the ONE BBSCON is the Dvorak Awards for Excellence in PC Communications. Sponsored by Boardwatch Magazine columnist John C. Dvorak, this award recognizes significant contributions in the field of personal computer communications.

This year's awards will be held Saturday evening, August 19, 1995 at 7:00pm. This awards banquet is an optional dinner event priced at \$39 per person. Register for this early as seating is limited.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

To register for the 1995 ONE BBSCON, simply fill out the attached registration form and either mail or fax it to ONE, Inc. at (303) 693-5518. You may optionally complete this registration form by modem by calling the ONE, Inc. BBS at (303) 693-5432. Registrations will also be accepted by telephone by calling the ONE, Inc. office at (303) 693-5253.

The registration fee for the ONE BBSCON is \$325 which includes all meeting sessions and materials, admission to the exhibit floor area, lunch on the three full days of the convention, and coffee breaks. Early registra-



Past winners of the Dvorak Award include:

Best commercial Online Information System:
America Online, Inc. - **Steve Case**

Outstanding Internet Front End: **Internet Chameleon**

Outstanding PC Telecommunications Technology:
AT&T Microelectronics V.34 Chipset

Outstanding Multimedia Internet Utility: NCSA Mosaic - **Chris Wilson, Jon Mittelhauser, Marc Andreessen, Eric Bina, Aleks Totic**

Outstanding Newspaper Online Coverage and forum: Mercury Center/San Jose Mercury News - **Pete Hillan, Bill Mitchell**

Best BBS Product/Service 1994: Planet Connect - **Joe Overholt**

Outstanding Online Magazine Coverage and Online Forum: TIME Online/TIME Magazine - **Phillip Elmer - Dewitt**

Honored for Developing the first electronic Bulletin Board System - **Ward Christensen and Randy Seuss**

Honored as Founder of the International Fido Network - **Tom Jennings**

Development of the Zmodem File Transfer Protocol - **Chuck Forsberg**

Development of Procomm for Windows, Terminal Software - **Tom Smith**

Development of Qmodem Terminal Software Package - **John Friell III**

Development of the First Single Package v.32/v.32 bis modem chipset: **Rockwell Design Team**

Outstanding International Connectivity - **Dr. Vinton Cerf**

Outstanding Hardware Contribution: **Motorola Codex**

Outstanding Reporting in Telecommunications: New York Times - **John Markoff**

Outstanding Software/ Firmware Contribution: Microcom - **Gregory Pearson and MNP1**

Best Overall Commercial Online Information Service: **CompuServe Information Service**

Lifetime Achievement Award - **Ward Christensen**

Lifetime Achievement Award - **Dennis C. Hayes**

Lifetime Achievement Award - **Don Watkins**

A partial sampling of last year's ONE BBSCON speakers includes:

Abernathy, Joe
 Aloia, Rodney
 Ambler, Chris
 Appleby, Jim
 Banks, Pete
 Barber, Steve
 Barry, James
 Baskerville, Bob
 Beaverson, Charla
 Bechtold, Alan
 Becker, Phil
 Beckman, Geoff
 Behrens, Kevin
 Bergman, James
 Bertilsson, Patrik
 Beruk, Peter
 Blanchard, Mark
 Bloom, Susan
 Bodger, Bruce
 Brinker, Scott
 Bryant, Alan
 Burnett, Mark
 Bush, Ed
 Carlson, David
 Carr, Jim
 Carrara, Ivano
 Carriger, James
 Chapman, Michael
 Charnoff, Leonard
 Chaum, Dr. David
 Chiappone, Chip
 Christensen, Ward
 Chubb, Lee
 Clark, Fred
 Clark, John
 Clawson, Pat
 Clement, Simon
 Clements, Brad
 Cooke, Gordon
 Coughlin, Brian
 Cozzi, Eric
 Cuervo, Fabian
 Cunningham, Stephen
 Curdy, William
 Curtis, Paul
 DaQuano, Jack
 Davis, Bob
 Davis, Paul
 Delfel, Randall
 Donovan, Brenda
 Drury, Matt
 Durand, Andre
 DuRocher, Sylvain
 Elliott, Brian
 Epstein, Charles
 Fellman, Harris
 Forsberg, Chuck
 Fowler, Dennis
 Fox, Daniel
 Frey, Russell
 Gerber, Kathy
 Getty, Troy
 Gibson, Graeme
 Glasgow, Karl
 Godwin, Mike
 Gooden, Greg
 Gottheil, Ezra
 Graham, Mark
 Green, Randall
 Greenbaum, Mike
 Grenier, Al
 Guthery, Tom
 Hamilton, Seth
 Hammond, Nate
 Hanson, Dan
 Harrer, Jim
 Hartman, Bob
 Hauser, Dennis
 Haynes, Steve
 Hayton, Mark
 Heder, Tess
 Heizman, Josh
 Heming, Rick
 Henke, Norm
 Herring, Mark "Sparky"
 Hertenstein, Frederic

PC World
 The Index System
 UUPlus Development
 The Business BBS
 Nat'l Center for Missing Children
 Lance Rose and Associates
 ResNova
 MMB Development Corporation
 CompuServe
 BBS Press Services
 eSoft, Inc.
 Searchlight Software, Inc.
 Aquila BBS
 Telegrafix Communications Inc.
 InterMail Software Inc.
 Software Publishers Association
 Evansville Courier
 The Business BBS
 Truckstop BBS
 Galaticomm, Inc.
 eSoft, Inc.
 Application Programming & Dev.
 Logicom, Inc.
 The Albuquerque Tribune
 Jim Carr Solutions, Inc.
 Studio 5 Liguria srl
 Ventura Co. Community College
 Quarterdeck Office Systems
 Information Odyssey
 DigiCash bv
 General Electric Information Sys.
 CBBS/Chicago
 InterFace Builders
 Clark Development Company, Inc.
 Northern Telecomm
 TeleGrafix Communications, Inc.
 DataSafe
 MurkWorks, Inc.
 The Cooke Report
 PBS
 Mustang Software, Inc.
 Galaticomm, Inc.
 Northern Telecom
 Summit Software Services
 Coast Computer Technology
 Northern Telecom
 PHD-NSWC
 Mustang Software, Inc.
 deltaComm Development
 Pacific Rim Information BBS
 The 'Go Graphics' Group, Inc.
 Durand Communications, Inc.
 Vircom Inc.
 Durand Com. Net.. Inc.
 Ravinia Associates
 Galaticomm, Inc.
 Omen Technologies Inc.
 Computer Shopper Magazine
 Electronic Card Systems, Inc.
 PowerBBS Computing
 CompuServe
 Integrated Solutions, Inc.
 Computers Today on Television
 eSoft, Inc.
 Electronic Frontier Foundation
 The Annex
 Delphi Internet Services
 Pandora Systems International
 Durand Communications, Inc.
 Prodigy Services Company
 Cykic Software
 FLIX Productions
 Hamilton TeleGraphics, Inc.
 Jabberwocky
 Parallax Development Cor.
 Mustang Software, Inc.
 eSoft, Inc.
 Resort Tour & Cruise
 Exchange Computers
 TeleGrafix Communications, Inc.
 Channel 1 BBS
 TFSnet
 Mustang Software, Inc.
 PC-Ohio PCBoard
 QMail Deluxe
 Executive Director, ASAD

Hewgill, Greg
 Hopmann, Alex
 Houston, Bob
 Howard, John
 Hughes, Dave
 Hull, Stephen
 Hunter, Scott
 Javorick, Kathy
 Johnson, John
 Jones, Dave
 Julson, Michael
 Katz, Phil
 Kauffman, Sheila
 Keeves, Andy
 Kennedy, Dave
 Kennedy, Peter
 Kerl, Dean
 Kirschner, Bruce
 Klingler, Steve
 Korman, Cindy
 Kovasiipi, Sakari
 Kramer, Charles
 Kuykendall, Andy
 Lane, Walt
 LaRosa, Frank
 Larsen, Steve
 Linton, Dan
 Livingston, Steve
 Lovetto, Michael
 Maccaferri, Marco
 Maher, Daniel
 Maier, Ken
 Mallut, Barbara
 Markowitz, Maury
 McCarthy, Ken
 McCauley, William
 McClure, David
 McInnis, Michael
 Meier, Gerald
 Metcalfe, Robert
 Michnick, Robert
 Moriarty, Jeff
 Morris, Patty
 Nash, Ken
 Neelakanta, Mahesh
 Nelson, Ted
 Overholt, Joe
 Paulsen, Stan
 Peace, George
 Pierce, Jim
 Prinner, Bruce
 Rearick, Jean
 Redman, Michael
 Reeder, Jeff
 Rickard, Jack
 Ricketts, Joel
 Rintel, Ian
 Robertson, Sam
 Robison, Scott
 Rose, Lance
 Rossiter, Tim
 Royer, Ken
 Rozenberg, Bert
 Ryan, Greg
 Ryan, Kathy
 Santos, Hector
 Severn, Jonathan
 Sherrod, Phil
 Smiler, Barry
 Souvestre, John
 Stein, Bob
 Stewart, Pamela
 Stewart, Peter
 Struempf, Ron
 Sussell, Kathy
 Sussman, Vic
 Templeton, Brad
 Terry, David
 Thornally, George
 Timberman, Roy
 Walsh, Dale
 Welch, Scott
 White, Pete
 Whittle, Dave
 Wood, Larry
 Woods, Jeff

Mustang Software, Inc.
 ResNova Software, Inc.
 Software Agents, Inc.
 Village Features Syndicate
 Old Colorado City Com.
 TogetherNet Foundation
 Mustang Software, Inc.
 PDN/Chatlink
 Icarus BBS
 TeleFlora Creditline
 BSI Technologies
 PKWARE, Inc.
 Kauffman & Johnston Consulting Grp.
 The Executive Network Info. Sys.
 Deloitte & Touche
 George, Donaldson & Ford
 DataSafe Publications, Inc.
 Boulder County Civic Center
 Clark Development Company, Inc.
 Galaticomm, Inc.
 Vianet OY
 Attorney-at-Law
 Online Macintosh Users' Group
 Fileshop BBS
 Searchlight Software, Inc.
 Prodigy Services Company
 Software Creations
 New Media
 Red Cross National Headquarters
 LORA BBS
 APDI
 Galaticomm, Inc.
 Blazin' Bytes BBS
 SoftArc, Inc.
 Marketing Solutions/E-Media
 Lawrence Livermore Nat. Laboratory
 Association of Online Professionals
 dynabyte Computer Consultants
 TWO BBSCON
 InfoWorld
 Microsoft
 High Velocity
 My Secret Garden BBS
 Galaticomm, Inc.
 Galaticomm, Inc.
 Xanadu World Publishing Repos.
 Planet Systems, Inc.
 Clark Development Company, Inc.
 Pennsylvania Online! BBS
 Integrated Solutions
 Stealth BBS
 MarketSpace, Inc.
 Master Design, Inc.
 TeleGrafix Communications, Inc.
 Boardwatch Magazine
 InterScape Development
 Cheersoft
 Mustang Software, Inc.
 Clark Development Company, Inc.
 LOL Enterprises
 Searchlight Software, Inc.
 National Technical Information Svcs.
 Mountain Rose Multi Media
 EXEC-PC
 America Online Inc.
 Santronics Software
 Cardservice Tri-Counties
 S&H Computer Systems, Inc.
 Bardon Data Systems
 Southern Star BBS
 Galaticomm, Inc.
 Crystall Quill, Inc.
 InterMail Software Inc.
 Sirius Software, Inc.
 Invention Factory
 US News & World Report
 ClariNet Communications Corp.
 Clark Development Company, Inc.
 BTI Company
 Sound Advice
 US Robotics
 SoftArc, Inc.
 GWA Services
 IBM, Inc.
 The 'Go Graphics' Group, Inc.
 deltaComm Development

The track further splits into detailed tracks for each popular package, demonstrating particular techniques on making the Internet connection, providing graphical interfaces, and introducing the wealth of third-party add-on modems and utilities available for each package. For existing BBS operators, these comprise virtually "mini-conventions" and work shops to learn the latest techniques and master tools to improve their BBS operations.

THE INTERNET - CONNECTIVITY AND FUNCTIONS

The internet has grown to connect over 3,200,000 computers on some 35,000 local area networks, creating the largest global network for data in history. This is a key part of the National data super highway so much in the press these days. At the 1993 ONE BBSCON, Dr. Vinton Cerf, president of the Internet Society and one of the original inventors of the TCP/IP protocol suite, characterized the individual BBS systems as the future "Gutenberg Press" of the Internet, and indeed the PC-based BBS packages promise to be absolutely the most cost effective means of hosting your own Internet site. This year, virtually every BBS software vendor is planning product introductions that will allow you to connect a low-cost PC-based bulletin board system to the Internet for ftp, telnet, World Wide Web and e-mail access at dollar figures unheard of previously in the Internet community. How to connect a BBS to the Internet is currently the hottest question out there among existing BBS operators, and of serious interest to those looking for an inexpensive method of establishing a presence on the Internet using a PC in a closet.

This track includes sessions describing the Internet generally, and working toward more specific uses of the UUCP dial-up protocol, SLIP, PPP, 56KB IP connections, T1 connection, telnet, ftp, Mosaic and World Wide Web, Gopher, the domain name system, Archie, and more. Most specifically, it includes detailed sessions on connecting various BBS platforms to the Internet for these services - how to, where to, what to.

ONE BBSCON will feature full Internet Protocol ethernet connectivity to every booth on vendor floor, all session classrooms, and a bank of terminals for attendees to try out this fascinating new global connectivity. It promises to be one of the hottest topics of the show.

LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN ONLINE SERVICES

The online community comprises a new frontier for human activity and a brand new byway of commerce for business. Like any frontier, it brings up a host of questions of both a legal and social nature. This track deals with issues such as copyright, trademarks, freedom-of-speech, pornography/obscenity, privacy, gender issues online, and the social and legal aspects of doing business in an online world. Led by experienced attorneys who have steered their legal careers into areas dealing with intellectual property and new technologies, this track is particularly helpful in steering clear of legal difficulties encountered in operating an online service of any type.

♦ "ONE BBSCON gives us the opportunity to get our software engineers out of the office and in front of our customers. Our Wildcat! Sysops love to be able to talk one-on-one with these guys and bend their ear on the features they need the most. Our Engineers come back charged up ready to work wonders! We would not miss ONE BBSCON, it is the year's hottest event!"

Jim Harrer
President/CEO
Mustang Software, Inc.



EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT APPLICATIONS OF BBS TECHNOLOGY

Nowhere has the application of BBS technology been more successful than in the government sector, with hundreds of bulletin boards springing up at the federal, state, and local level. Additionally, the education community has struggled with developing online technology as an educational tool. Again and again, the low cost of BBS applications has proven a winner in these sectors. In this track, successful BBS operators within government and education share the techniques used to fund, install, and operate successful bulletin boards to fill the mission of their organization.

GENERAL CONNECTIVITY TRACK

A big area of interest in the BBS community revolves around the various means of connecting bulletin boards to each other. This track examines the history, technology, and future of various BBS networks such as the International FidoNet, RIME, ILINK, other QWK networks, and more.

TECHNOLOGY TRACK

The online community is founded on, and continues to deploy the latest in communications technologies to the advantage of individual callers. This track examines high speed modems, Integrated Services Digital Networks (ISDN), Direct Broadcast TV, Cable TV and X.25 networks, for connecting callers to online services. It also delves into areas such as geographical interfaces, mail utilities, and other areas of development in bulletin boards.

♦ "Por segunda vez, la conferencia ONE BBSCON, organizada por la empresa ONE INC. logro reunir a miles de operadores de sistemas que durante cuatro dias compartieron una amplia variedad de actividades. El evento incluyo una completa sesion de conferencias y una exposicion con decenas de stands. El numero de asistentes se calculo en 2,000 y para la proxima conferencia en 1994 esperan contar con 4,000."

Javier Matuk
PC-Semanal
Mexico City

ONE BBSCON 1994, VENDORS

Access America
Access Atlanta
ADP AutoNet
American Banking Systems
American Travel
APDI
Arizona MacUsers Group
Assoc. of Online Professionals
Assoc. of Shareware Professionals
Atlanta PC Users Group
BBS Press Service
Boardwatch Magazine
Boca Research, Inc.
BSI Technologies
Cardservice
Cert. Mustang Software Integrators
Cheersoft
Chicago Computer Broker
Clarinet Communications
Clark Development Company, Inc.
Columbus PBX
Community Long Distance
Computer Media Concepts
Concentric Research Corporation
Continuum Software
Criticom Corporation
CYKIC Software
Dallas Remote Imaging
Data Xchange
DATABANK, INC
DataStorm Technologies
DCA
deltaComm
DigiBoard
Digital Consulting
Digital Impact, Inc.
Digital Universe
Durand Communications Network
Electronic Card Systems, Inc.
Electronic Frontier Foundation
EMS Professional Software
Engineer's Bookstore
eSoft, Inc.
Exec-PC, Inc.
Galacticomm, Inc.
Giffy Enterprises
GroupWare, Inc.
GTEK, Inc.
GWA Services
Hamilton Telegraphics
Hard 2 Find Office Products
Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.
IBM
INDEX Incorporated
Infinite Data Source
Integrated Solutions
Interface Builders
InterMail Software, Inc.
International Online Service, Inc.
Jabberwocky

Jaye Communications
Jefferson TelephoneAdept
Lanus, Inc.
Lion's Den International
Logicom, Inc.
Matrix Telecom
McAfee Associates
MCI PC Connect
MCI Small Business
Media Technologies
Microcom
MMB Development Corp.
Murkworks, Inc.
Mustang Software, Inc.
Nat. Shareware Library, Inc.
NetManage
Nothern Telecom
NU IQ Software
Online Access Magazine
Online Atlanta Society
Online Communications, Inc.
Pandora Systems
Parallax Development Corp.
PC Information Group, Inc.
Peed Corporation/PC Cat.
Pegasus Press, Inc.
PGG Graphics Images Svcs.
PKWARE, Inc.
Planet Systems, Inc.
Power Computing
Practical Peripherals
ProBoard USA
Prodigy Services Company
Professional Developer's Grp.
PUGDOG Enterprises
Quarterdeck Office Systems
ResNova
Rockwell International
Santronics Software
Searchlight Software, Inc.
SoftArc
SPRINT
Supra Corporation
Team Darkstar
Teleflora Credit Line
Telegrafix Communications
Tessier Technologies
The Business BBS
The INDEX System, Inc.
The MARKETplace
The Pier Exchange
Tint Technologies
Traders Connection
TWO BBSCON
U.S. Robotics
Vironix NA
Voice Information Svcs Ltd
VoiceNet
Women's WIRE
Zoom Telephonics
ZyXEL

NEW IN '95

ADP AutoNET
B3 Corporation
CD Concepts, Inc.
Delrina
Modem BBS
PC Catalog
PrivTel

ATG Systems
Banana
CyCube
Dragon Business Service, Inc.
O'Reilly & Associates
Performance Systems Intl., Inc.
Remote Access Pro/ISD

BUSINESS APPLICATIONS OF BBS TECHNOLOGY

This track provides sessions on various business applications of BBS technology such as product support bulletin boards, online sales services, special topic information services, internal company communications, LAN extension, online databases, shopping online and more.



VENDOR EXHIBITS

In addition to educational sessions, ONE BBSCON provides a unique opportunity to "shop" the wares of various technology vendors. As ONE BBSCON has grown, it has become the "mark" to have new product introductions and rollouts "ready for ONE BBSCON." As a result, many new exciting products make their very first appearance at ONE BBSCON. Last year Internet connections were available on the exhibit floor.

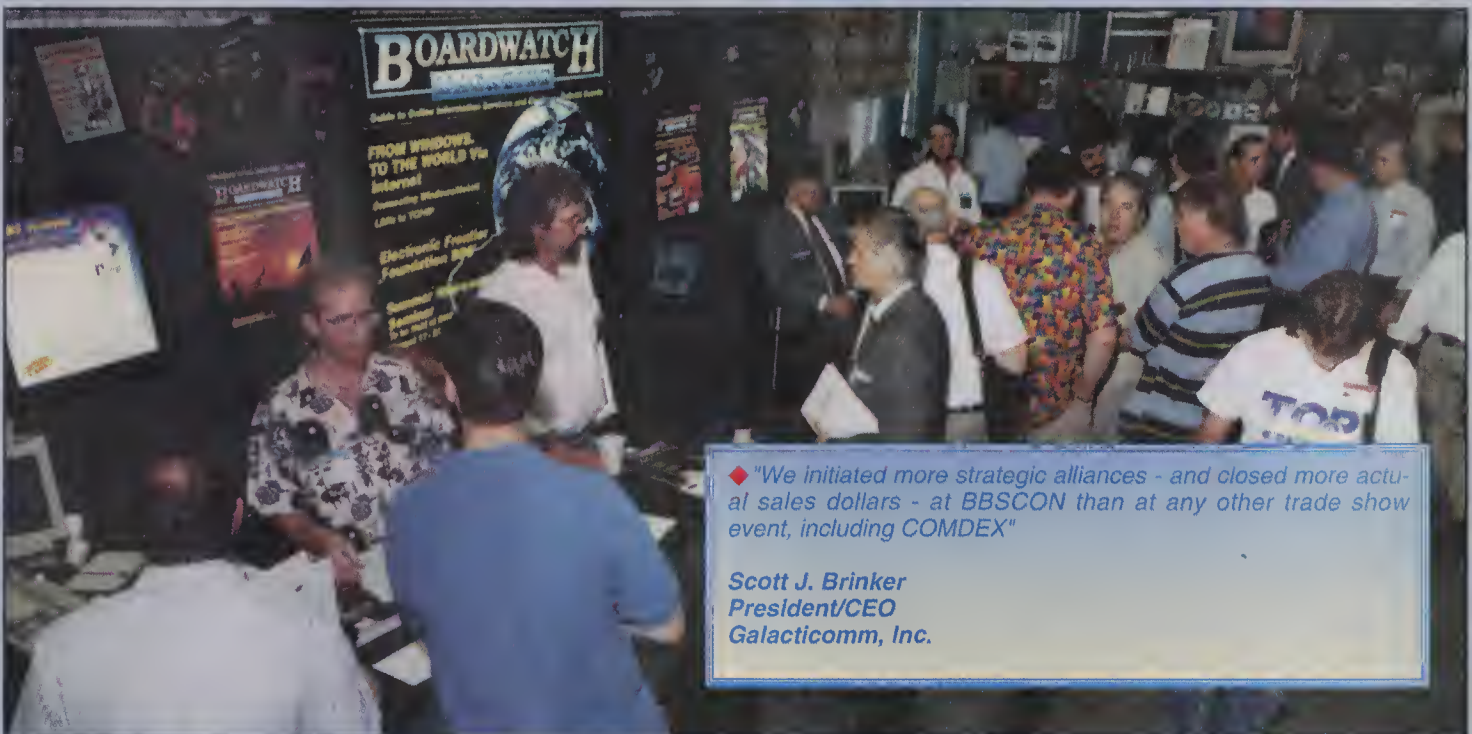
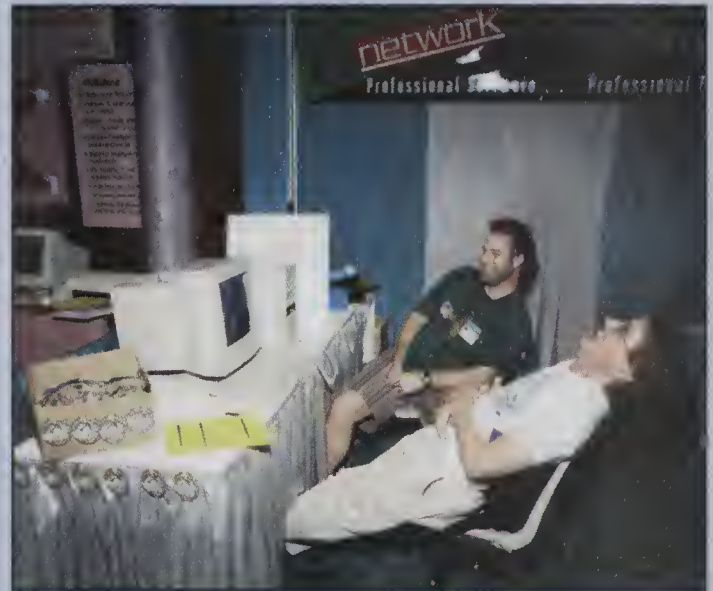
Additionally, in a bid to enlist the early adopter class BBS operators traditionally represent, and harness the information engine provided by several thousand BBS operators who are in DAILY contact with a cumulative mass of several MILLIONS of online callers, vendors have traditionally sold product directly at ONE BBSCON, and done so at extremely attractive "show discount" prices.

The result looks more like a "shopping frenzy" than a traditional vendor display floor with many attendees noting that they pay the expenses for their entire trip with the savings on needed modem, hardware, and software purchases made on the floor.

This year, the Tampa Convention Center provides us with over 100,000 square feet of vendor floor space with a booth capacity of some 300 10X10 display units. And given the success at the previous three ONE BBSCON conventions, we expect to fill them early with some of the most innovative product developers, and exciting new communications products available on the market.

♦ "Nicht umsonst gilt die Telekommunikation als grösster Wachstumsmarkt der kommenden Jahre - ein Eindruck, der sich auf der «ONE BBSCON» vollauf bestätigte."

Gerald Meier
Telematik Magazine
Germany



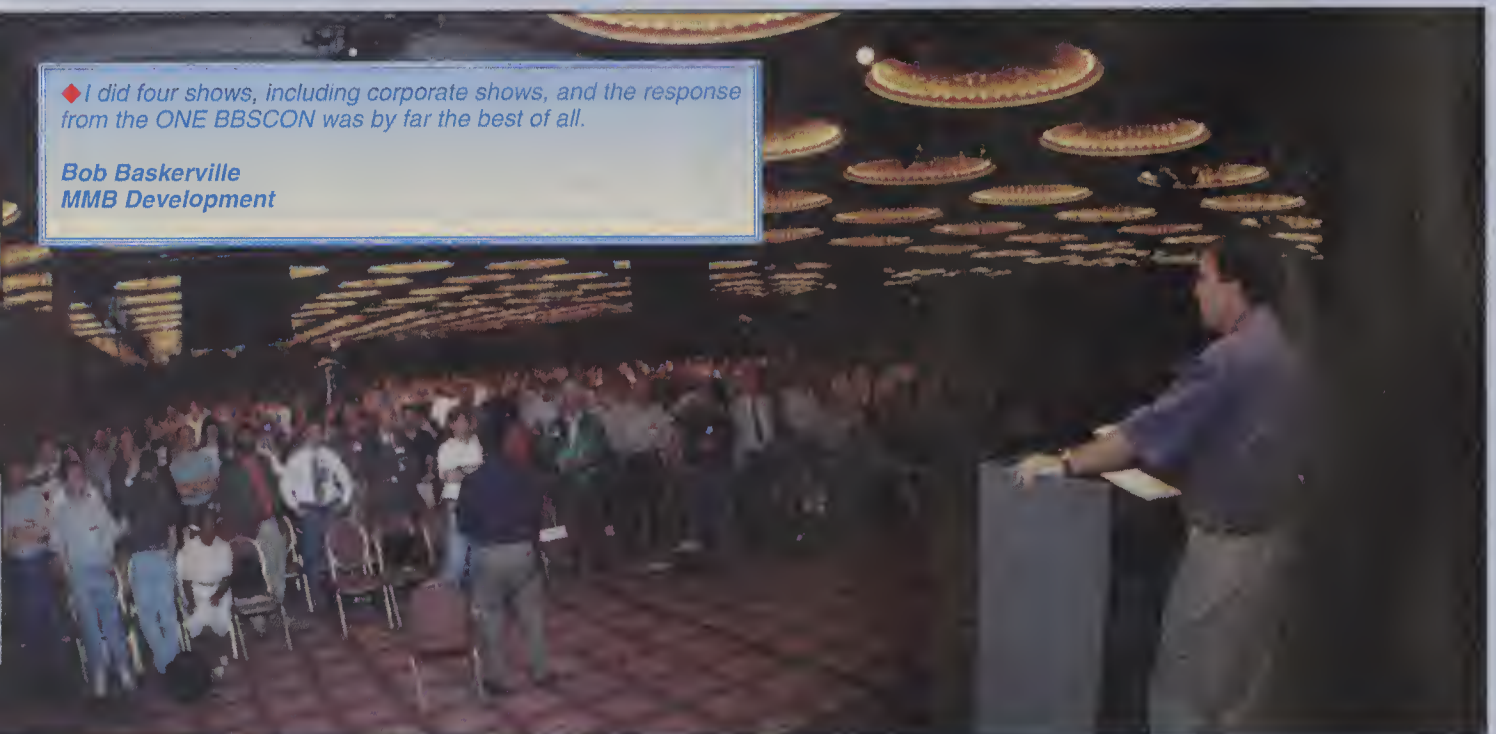
♦ "We initiated more strategic alliances - and closed more actual sales dollars - at BBSCON than at any other trade show event, including COMDEX"

Scott J. Brinker
President/CEO
Galacticomm, Inc.

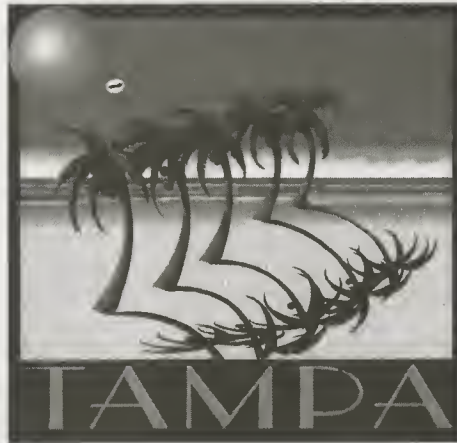


♦ I did four shows, including corporate shows, and the response from the ONE BBSCON was by far the best of all.

Bob Baskerville
MMB Development



ONE BBSCON



AUGUST 16-20, 1995

Registration &
Hotel Reservation
for the 4th Annual

ONE BBSCON

**TAMPA CONVENTION
CENTER**

**Headquarters:
Hyatt Regency Tampa**

R E G I S T R A T I O N F O R M

FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED

ONE, INC.

4255 SOUTH BUCKLEY ROAD, #308
AURORA, COLORADO 80013



AUGUST 16-20, 1995

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

ONE, Inc. has arranged for a convention rate at several Tampa hotels for this year's ONE BBSCON. The rates are applicable August 12-August 23, 1995. Only ONE BBSCON attendees and their guests are eligible for these rates.

To obtain the convention rate, reservations should be made with ONE, Inc., prior to **July 21, 1995**. After this date rates are no longer guaranteed and reservations taken by the hotel will be on a space available basis at the prevailing rates from the hotel.

Reservations can only be made by completing this form and sending it to ONE, Inc., by mail or fax. Your hotel reservation will be processed based on the date received. You will receive a confirmation from the hotel verifying your reservation.

****NOTE:** Hotel reservations cannot be made until you have registered in full for the ONE BBSCON. There will be shuttle bus service from all hotels to the Tampa Convention Center.

HOTEL SELECTION

(Please list three choices as reservations will depend on availability. -
Prices are per night single or double occupancy and do not include sales tax)

Hyatt Regency Tampa(Host Hotel) \$99
Sheraton Grand Hotel \$92
Quality Hotel Riverside \$59

Holiday Inn Ashley Plaza \$80
Wyndham Harbour Island \$109
Hyatt Regency Westshore \$95

FIRST CHOICE: _____ SECOND CHOICE: _____ THIRD CHOICE: _____

BW

RESERVATION INFORMATION: (Please print clearly!)

Full Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Country: _____

Voice: _____

Fax: _____

(We must have this information to make the reservation.)

Arrival Date: _____

Departure Date: _____

Room Type: ☐ Single (1 bed, 1 - 2 people)

☐ Double/Double (2 beds, 2-4 people)

Sharing with/Special Instructions: _____

**A credit card is required to guarantee room reservation.

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Card Holder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Return this form to: ONE, Inc., 4255 S. Buckley Rd., #308 Aurora, CO 80013 or FAX to (303) 693-5518

Office Use Only: Date Processed: _____ Registration No. _____

Date of Report: _____

